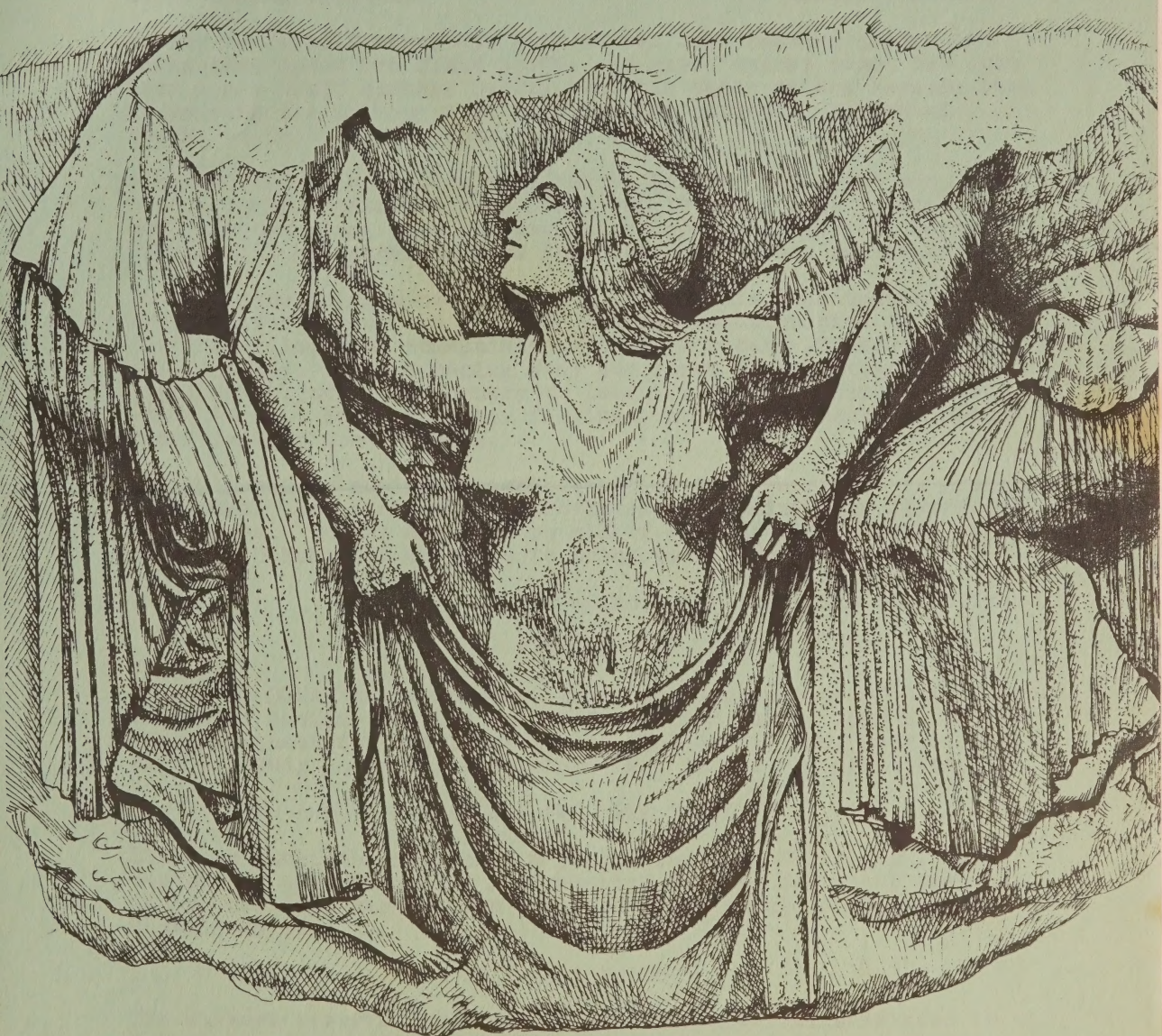


DINAH



The Birth of the Goddess

*** DINAH ***
Bimonthly Publication of the
Lesbian Activist Bureau, Inc.
P.O. Box 1485
Cincinnati, OH 45201

Happy Spring Equinox,

MARCH 1979 ISSUE

Spring is finally here, and with it has come renewed energy and enthusiasm among the DINAH staff. An extra energy boost has come from a new staff member, Scotty, who has taken up the awesome task of keeping the mailing list in order and current. A special thanks to Scotty for coming to our rescue.

A warm DINAH welcome also goes out to Debbie Arapa, who has long been a valued contributor to DINAH but is now a regular staff member. So now along with her regular escapades as Marlena Gardenia, Debbie will be gathering news for DINAH from other publications.

We are introducing a new feature in DINAH this time that we are all quite excited about: a forum on lesbian relationships. It is vital that lesbians communicate with each other. Otherwise, we are all isolated. We are hoping that our forum will provide a way for lesbians all over the country to learn from each other. Please write to us. Your thoughts, feelings, and experiences can mean a great deal to someone else.

DINAH is really coming of age! Her list of subscribers is growing every day. Her content is improving and becoming more diverse with each issue. Thanks and love to all of you out there. With your support, DINAH will continue to bring us closer together.

--Cinci, for the DINAH collective

Thanks to DINAH's womonpower: Kate for reproduction of the wonderful cover design; editors Holly, Phebe, and Cinci; Joan S. for her tireless quest for supplies; Scotty, Debbie A., Sue, Maggie, Dee, Barb W., Judy B., Betty, Lois, Emma; and to all the collators.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

DINAH is published six times a year: January, March, May, July, September, and November. All material for the May issue must be in by Thursday, May 3. Ten cents per word should accompany all classified ads.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The editors reserve the right to edit any material submitted to us for publication. If you feel your article or letter has been unjustly changed, please let us know.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Note: For details of these events, see elsewhere in this issue.

March 16-April 21	Exhibition of Cincinnati womyn artists at U.C.
March 30 (Fri.)	Organ recital by Carolyn Schott, Watson Recital Hall, Conservatory of Music, 8:30 p.m.
April 8 (Sun.)	Meeting for hard-core DINAH fanatics. Meet at Holly's to review this issue and discuss new business. For directions or information, call 281-2437.
April 11 (Wed.)	Holly Near will be performing in Cincinnati. For information, call Karen at 721-8093 (evenings) or write P.O. Box 19361, Cincinnati OH 45219.
April 11 (Wed.)	SOL meeting
April 13 (Fri.)	Kate Millett will speak at the U.C. Women's Center, Room 401, 7:30 p.m. Small charge. For information, call 475-6778.
April 20 (Fri.)	Womyn's potluck. For information, call Holly, 281-2437.
April 20-22 (Fri-Sun)	5th annual New York State Lesbian Conference, "Lesbian Reality." For information, contact The Lesbian Switchboard, c/o Women's Center, P.O. Box 354, Binghamton, NY 13902.
April 25 (Wed.)	SOL meeting
May 4 (Fri.)	The group "Alive!" will perform in Cincinnati. For information, call Karen, 721-8093.
May 9 (Wed.)	SOL meeting
May 11-13 (Fri-Sun)	Otter Creek Spirituality Conference, Louisville
May 12 (Sat.)	SOL picnic at Whitewater Park
May 23 (Wed.)	SOL meeting

LAB COFFEES

LAB coffees are held every Thursday night at the YWCA, 9th & Walnut. Come by and relax with some wonderful Amazons! Dates of upcoming coffees are: March 29, April 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31.

A FORUM ON LESBIAN RELATIONSHIPS

DINAH introduces a new feature -- a forum on lesbian relationships! For the next several issues, DINAH will present a series of articles on relationships which touch on such issues as the permanence or transience of lesbian relationships, monogamy vs non-monogamy, open relationships, and triads. These are just a few of the great many issues involved in our relating with each other.

We encourage you, our readers, to take part in our forum. Relationships among lesbians are as varied as the women involved yet similar in some ways. All of you have experiences to relate and deep feelings about your experiences which could lend support or a different perspective to a sister who may be going through a similar experience. Write down your thoughts and feelings about your relationships and send them to us. We will print as many as we can. Feel free to write on any issue, or to agree or disagree with a previously printed article. We are the role models for each other. We must learn from each other if we are to grow strong and free in our lesbian identity.

--Cinci

Comments on the Falling Apart of Lesbian Relationships

How long have you and your lover been together? Or, how long were you and your lover together? Most of you have probably been together 2 years or less. Some may have celebrated a third- or fourth-year anniversary. But, only a handful of you have lived and worked and loved together for more than four years. Why? Well, herstorically, I suppose, many of you haven't been "out" for more than four years. But, then, many of us have.

The falling apart of lesbian relationships, especially long ones, is most painful for those of us who were taught to expect one, permanent, satisfying relationship in our adult life. Conditioned as we are, we are not completely free to adapt to a series of 2-year or 4-year (or 2- or 4-month) relationships without longing for the stability and the security of a long-term commitment.

There are good things to be said about being committed to another person. You can each explore facets of the other that cannot be experienced by friends. You can develop that intuitive knowing and sharing that comes from time spent together. You can know the comfort of seeing the same face every morning, watching her sleep or talk or work or smile, nestling into that same, warm niche her body offers at night.

So, why does a lesbian relationship, or any relationship, fall apart? Maybe it was the wrong face, the wrong hands, the wrong toothbrush in the wrong holder -- maybe it was just all wrong from the beginning. If that's the case, you probably know it, or knew it, if you took the time to figure it out. But, if it was right...

A combination of things occur. First must come some dissatisfaction by one of you. Second must be an alternative outlet to "working things out," which old-time traditional marriages tried to do. In other words, there's a whole world of womyn out there; you don't have to stay in this relationship. Besides, the "ties" in most lesbian relationships are minimal. There are no legalities to go through. There is no guilt laid on you by parents and relatives, because most of them don't know to begin with, and when they do, it's not as if you're breaking up the "holy institution of marriage," or "sinning against God." So,

who cares if you and she part?

If there are children, they go with the lesbian who brought them - very few couples have had kids together. The house, the furnishings, the trappings of straight coupledom don't pervade most lesbian relationships. This doesn't mean the pain of separation is any less, of course, and the trappings certainly don't make the relationship, but they might encourage the decision to try working things out.

Is it realistic anymore to think you can spend the rest of your life with the same person? Do you want to make the sacrifices? Is it possible even if you do want to make them?

I suppose the ideal situation is to simply want to "be" with that person, but what are the chances of having that happen? You must conquer the living together, the monogamy question, the boredom.

In working on a good, long-term relationship, you have to confront not only the daily hassles (she puts the glasses away upside down, you put them away right side up, and you both insist on having your own way), and the truly hard times (you're on unemployment, she's getting harrassed on the job, your dog runs out in the street too soon or too late, and your mother - who doesn't "know" - drops you a postcard and is coming to visit for an indefinite period of time), but over the long haul, which 10-50 years surely must be, you have to face the boredom.

Boredom sounds like a bad word in this context. Maybe it is to some people. What it means, really, is a familiarity, a knowing of someone so well that you no longer have the same kind of interest you once had. And by the time you're truly bored with each other, you are no longer communicating directly or with the piercing honesty that accompany the first couple of years, which makes it all the more difficult to face the problem directly.

Why can't we funnel that honest "ennui" into creative problem-solving channels? There must be some way to revitalize, to keep in touch and to keep reevaluating; most importantly, to keep liking each other (loving is imperative but relatively easy, liking is imperative and considerably more difficult).

I like to think of lesbians as womyn who are eager to grow and evolve. I like to think of myself as one of those womyn. The questions I have presented here arise from a "falling apart" in my own life; a paradoxical ending of a relationship I believed would last forever. But, feelings don't last forever. Maybe a commitment can. The commitments we make to one another as lesbians cannot be based totally on the standards of the era we were raised in. Things are changing too fast. We must instead pursue an honesty, a ritual, a commitment of our own, whether it's to ourselves, or to another person, that will allow our culture to survive and flourish.

After reading this article over to a friend of mine, she said to me, "Why, you don't really believe in long-term relationships at all, do you?" And I told her yes, I do. With all my heart. It's just the technicalities I'm not sure of.

-- Holly

...the FORUM continues on the next page, please read on.....

Are Lesbian Relationships Really Only Short Term?

One of the myths about lesbians which straight people believe most strongly is that lesbian relationships don't last very long. This is one of the most vicious myths of them all because a great many of us believe it ourselves and go into relationships expecting them to dissolve shortly. Then when trouble comes along, our expectations become self-fulfilling prophecies -- we get what we expect, and the relationships split.

We do ourselves a disservice by believing this myth, because it is indeed a myth. We are isolated from each other, so the only lesbian couples we know are those within our small group of acquaintances. Heterosexual couples are easily identified and counted. However, there are thousands of lesbian couples that live quietly among their own circle of friends and don't participate in political events or go to bars. Since we don't see them, we wrongly assume they are not there.

A few years ago I was invited to a party given by a lesbian in her fifties (I was twenty-three). At the party were about fifteen lesbian couples, and all of the women were in their forties and fifties. I was astounded to find that their relationships had lasted from ten to twenty-five years. Like many young lesbians, I was afraid such longevity was not possible. The only relationships I knew of were short, experimental types. I knew that I wanted a long-term relationship some day, and just seeing these women interact with the lovers that they knew so well made me feel warm inside that there is a place in this life for me and my needs.

It is easy to see how such a myth could arise. I was in a gay bar one night when a group of straight psychology students arrived. These students were doing a study on gay relationships, and they were looking for a "representative" sample of gays. When they came to the bar, they really believed they were getting a slice of gay life. I would have laughed if I didn't feel so much like crying. To get a sample from a bar and call it "representative" of gays is as ridiculous as going to a heterosexual bar in a seedy section of town to obtain a "representative" sample of heterosexuals. No wonder so many psychological studies, especially those done by straights, implant the myth that gay relationships are short term, along with many other damaging falsehoods. What is most sad is that many of us fall into the same trap--what we see going on in bars we believe is "the way it is."

There is another aspect of gay life which feeds into this myth. Most of us don't grow up knowing that there is a choice of lifestyles. Therefore, we generally discover our lesbianism later in life. Then when we do finally realize which path is right for us, we have a lot of learning and experimentation to catch up on. While our heterosexual counterparts are getting married in their teens and early twenties, we are just beginning to learn about our sexuality during those years. Thus, our early, experimental relationships might take place in our twenties and thirties, while heterosexuals have already gone through the experimental stage and are ready to settle down by this time. Therefore, what appear to be "transient" lesbian relationships are really the necessary learning processes which heterosexuals also went through, only earlier. These preliminary relationships are more indicative of a normal, healthy growth pattern than of some innate inability of lesbians to settle down. As large a percentage of lesbians settle down as do heterosexuals. We just do it later.

(continued on next page)

In many ways our relationships are healthier than heterosexual relationships. Since we tend to form our lasting relationships later in life, we are more mature when we settle down, and therefore our relationships are more likely to be good ones. On the other hand, heterosexuals, especially those who jump into marriage in their teens, are often still adolescent in many ways and are not ready for such a large commitment. Then when they discover that they want out of the relationship, they must contend with the problems of children, formal divorce, financial difficulty, and guilt trips from relatives and friends. Often these deterrents prove too strong for the heterosexual couple, and they stay together in spite of the pain.

There aren't as many roadblocks to the splitting up of lesbian couples, and this is not a bad thing. Couples who stay together because they feel they have to are only denying themselves a chance to grow. Thus, when heterosexuals point with pride to the number of married couples, I can only feel sorry for them. It is more important to them that couples stay together than that people find relationships in which they can be happy. Heterosexuals look at divorce rates as a shameful statistic. I see the increase of divorce in recent years as a positive sign that more and more people are breaking out of their trap to try to find what they want.

Lesbians have always been freer in their relationships than have heterosexuals--not only freer to search for a good relationship, but also freer to pursue a career, have friends, and enjoy outside interests. Heterosexuals could learn a lot from us.

-- Cincinnati

DINAH'S MAILBAG

DINAH welcomes your comments, criticisms, and suggestions!

Write: P.O. Box 1485, Cincinnati, OH 45201.

Dear Sisters,

Thank you for publishing my writing or letter or whatever you'd call it in DINAH ... (See "Dear Wimmin of the DINAH Community" in the December 1978 issue) I've written for years but only for myself. What an experience to see it in DINAH -- a publication I love.

Do you have any left-over copies? I'd like to have another for a friend since my first writing is in it.

Also -- please use this money for a beer or a fruit juice or whatever it is that you unsung workers enjoy. How I wish I were there sometime to enjoy it, too, and really meet you.

Love,

Sandy
Canton, Ohio

MAILBAG cont'd.

DINAH T-SHIRTS DINAH T-SHIRTS DINAH T-SHIRTS DINAH T-SHIRTS DINAH T-SHIRTS

DINAH can arrive at your home in small, medium, large and extra-large sizes. She will fit you, your friends, your lovers, and she will even fit your mother. (tell your mother that this is the DINAH that was working on the railroad all that time.) The shirt is white; DINAH design is purple. The cost is \$5.75 pp.

Make checks payable to

LAB, PO Box 1485,
Cinti, OH 45201.

Name and address and zip, please (indicate size & quantity)

DINAH'S MAILBAG (cont'd.)

January 26, 1979

Dear Sisters at DINAH:

I've been receiving your little gem since issue #1 and always enjoy the articles, opinions, stories, etc. Even with the turnover you've had of late, you're still keepin' on and that is MOST important!

I especially enjoyed phebe's "amazon fairy tale." (See January 1979 issue) I have been pondering writing a collection of such for about a year and have 3 to date. We need to create our own myths and fairy tales; I like Monique Wittig but some of her imagery escapes me so I am still looking for something less abstract

I am enclosing a short item that I wrote as a prayer or offering of spirituality to a group of friends. I thought of it after I read phebe's story and thought it might fit in with your format due to its length and theme.

If you can use it, I'd be pleased. If not, please return it to me in my SASE. And of course, keep up your good work with DINAH!

In sisterhood,

GINGERLOX
Denver, CO

EDITOR'S NOTE: We decided to use it! See elsewhere in this issue for her story, "The Common Woman Rises Daily ..."

January 29, 1979

Dear everyone:

Hi - I've been reading DINAH for a couple of years now, and I guess you've been reading us for that long, too. I don't think we've ever written to each other before - so hello.

The main reason I'm writing is that I'm trying to get Leaping Lesbian together, as editor, by myself right now, and publishing it at an offset print-shop costs lots more money than mimeographing it, like we used to. So I'm trying very hard to expand our list of paying subscriptions. I hope you'll be able to run a little blurb about LL in your next issue, which I think will help Ohio women find out we exist and maybe they'll subscribe. If you like, I'll put in an announcement about DINAH in our next issue, too. (See Classified Ads for information on where to subscribe to LEAPING LESBIAN.)

I hope your bimonthly schedule is better for you. Keep up the good work --

Best wishes,

Laura Sky Brown
Editor/Coordinator

WOMAN'S ART CENTER

For those of you who don't already know it, there is a Woman's Art Center here in town! The Center is staffed by women professionals "interested in exploring and experimenting with new ways of working. The Center serves women in the visual, performing, and literary arts." They are located at the downtown WCA at 9th & Walnut. For information on upcoming events and classes, call 241-7090, ext. 33.

MEG CHRISTIAN & THE MAKING OF MENTORESS PRODUCTIONS

A rebirth is sometimes more exciting than a birth. For lesbians/feminists, a birth is an awareness. It comes slowly. Things become clearer and clearer; more in focus. You are new, your ideas are new, and your friends are new.

After the birthing, comes the growing. We learn the ways to love womyn as our minds and bodies reach out to those of other womyn in the community.

And part of the growing is the strife and pain of a new culture. Lovers turn to enemies; friends turn to enemies; bands of womyn turn to enemies. Construction to destruction; energy to apathy. The sounds of the strife fill lesbian journals.. The structurelessness hovers on the vine, ready to be picked and chewed and spat out.

Cincinnati may be behind the times, but we're not behind the pain. That's why a rebirth is so rejuvenating. So...

Hello, Mentoreess! Welcome to the earth. It's hot in the summer and cold in the winter, and at best you've got about a hundred thousand years here, and the only rule is, goddamnit, you've got to be kind.**

To celebrate their efforts, and to launch a new year of womyn's music in Cincinnati, Mentoreess presented Meg Christian to a 400++ womyn, and several men friends -- the largest audience ever to attend a lesbian concert in Cincinnati. And, what a great concert (and event) it was! DRD opened the evening with a warm and humorous greeting to the crowd (she's a natural comedienne and a terrific public contact person for Mentoreess). Within minutes, Meg was on.

Meg's concert was a delightful blend of her own music and the music of other womyn, from Holly Near to Loretta Lynn. She opened with "Hello Hooray," the first song on her album, "I Know You Know." From the beginning, her voice was inspiring. What a treat to just sit back, close your eyes, and let her voice carry you along. The presentation of songs was well thought out, too. She disclosed small, but important, strains of her life with each one and, together, they created a whole: a collage of Meg.

Annie Dinerman's "Face the Music" came second in the concert. Annie is a native Cincinnati singer/songwriter who has been corresponding with Meg, sending her lyrics and melodies, for several years. She was quite pleased when Meg decided to perform "Face the Music" as the title cut from her second album. Ironically enough, after trying to get Meg to come to Cincinnati for all that time, Annie is now pursuing her career in New York and so missed Meg altogether.

Meg did an old Laura Nyro favorite, "Emily," followed by "Nana" (pronounced Nah-na) by Carol Hull, a story of a grandmother as seen through her young granddaughter's eyes. Her acapella version of Holly Near's "Mountain Song" was moving and did justice to the powerful lyrics. "Nina," composed jointly by Holly & Meg, is always a nice piece to hear, though it impresses me as a fairytale, a very nice one, but a fairytale, nonetheless.

"Leaping Lesbians" (Sue Fink, Joanne Grippo), the hilarious anti-Anita, anti-homophobia classic, was definitely the high-point of the first half, if not the whole concert. Following that was the wonderful, wonderful lullaby, "Rock Me in Your Arms" (Meg & Holly's creation that Holly does on her new album, "Imagine My Surprise"), and a new piece by Chris Williamson called "Live Wire."

For days after the concert, I kept singing the chorus to Meg's pre-intermission song: "I was walking around in little pieces and I never even knew that the way back home to me was the road I took to you." (I have since bought Meg's second album

** Paraphrased from Stranger in a Strange Land by R. Heinlein

"Face the Music," inspired by that song alone, and Holly Near's new album, and I highly recommend them both.)

After the intermission, we had some announcements from a woman representing the Women's Arts Center and a short mime piece by one of their members. I don't want to exclude the mime from this review, but I must confess I didn't understand the piece. So, to the woman who did the mime presentation: we need you in this community -- please keep working -- just work a little simpler.

To prevent burn-out from reading through the list of songs from the second half of the concert, I'll just stick to the highlights. One, in particular, was the song on alcoholism (for which I have no name), which Meg prefaced with comments on alcoholism in general (one in every three or four lesbians is an alcoholic) and on her own struggle with the disease.

Outstanding were two instrumental guitar pieces ("Buck Dancing" and "Nobody's Home but the Baby"), written by an 80-year old woman, Elizabeth Cotton. The introduction to the songs was important, too, since Ms. Cotton plays (still) intricate instrumentals like these lefthanded with the guitar strung righthanded (impressively difficult).

My criticism of Meg's performance is brief: she refused to do an encore. At a concert (an oasis) such as this, the thunderous applause at the end is saying, "We love you, we love you, we love you." And, what she said in return was, "I love you too, but ... I'm tired." And, we understood. It was OK. But, it would have been much better to have ended a song sooner and to have shared that last bit of energy in mutual appreciation -- of us for supporting her work, and of her, for giving of herself and her songs.

As an epilog of sorts - the sound for the concert was great, thanks to Sea Friends Records

- Mentoreess is presenting Holly Near and "Alive!" in concert this spring (see Calendar of Events)
- Mentoreess is searching for a new name that doesn't have "men" in it (send ideas to Mentoreess, PO Box 19361, Cincinnati, OH 45219)
- Womyn's albums are now available at local Cincinnati stores, including Subway Records on McMillan, and Air-Wave Records on Ludlow (see your phone directory for addresses)

-- Holly

Champaign Music Festival

The National Women's Music Festival will take place in Champaign, Illinois, May 30-June 3. Anyone who has ever attended this festival knows that this is one event which should not be missed. Start planning now. Ticket prices are as follows:

	<u>Full Week</u>	<u>Weekend</u>
Until April 15	\$25.00	\$18.00
Until May 29	\$30.00	\$21.00
At the Door	\$35.00	\$24.00

Single concert - \$6.00. Single workshops - \$2.00. No refunds after May 29. Work exchange will be available. Send correspondence to:

National Women's Music Festival
PO Box 2721, Station A
Champaign, Ill 61820

THE LONELINESS OF SEX

Marlena Gardenia

(the paranoid-hypochondria of "What's wrong with me?")

Oddly enough it isn't sex that makes us think about sex so much. It's the amount of time we spend thinking about sex that makes us think about sex so much. Between thinking about sex and committing sex, there is talking about sex, which at least relieves some of the stress of sex.

Naturally, sex is a welcome subject in any conversation. Warmly greeted by enthusiastic spectators and hopeful participants alike, the first question of sex is invariably "how soon?"

When not thinking about sex or talking about sex, we think about planning sex. Planning sex frequently leads to wondering and, occasionally, worrying about sex. Witless with anxiety about the threat of sex, we wonder if there's going to be sex - if indeed sex exists at all - if we'll be there when sex happens and if, perhaps, sex isn't already happening somewhere without us, in which case, who is doing what with whom? And, are my feelings hurt? Caught up in this kind of ongoing hallucination it's no wonder real life sex can seem such a deprivation of the senses. As long as future sex somewhere seems the best ever, the sensual famine goes on.

The Night Anita Came To Town

Anita Bryant came to town to speak at the Convention Center the night of March 3, and the Cincinnati gay community was ready for her. Lesbians and gay men turned out 200 strong for a candlelight vigil on the steps of Convention Center. The feeling of strength and unity pervaded our group as we walked along the steps, singing and trying to keep our candles lit on the windy evening.

We were impressive, and news cameras from all three local networks, were there to record our message, presented excellently by our spokeswoman, Lilli Sprintz. Channels 5 and 12 presented very fair, balanced accounts. Al Schottelkotte of Channel 9, however, was obviously biased in favor of Anita. He gave more camera time to Anita than to us, and reported that police expected trouble, implying that any trouble would be the protesters' fault. (Actually, the only incident of the evening was perpetrated by a male, holier-than-thou preacher on the steps who harrassed some of the womyn.) When you are deciding which news show to watch, avoid Channel 9. All you will get from Al is sexist and heterosexist bullshit.

It was an important night for Cincinnati gays. We showed Anita and the rest of Cincinnati that we hold power in this city.

REMINDER: The deadline for all material going in the May issue must be in our PO Box or at the coffee by May 3 (Thursday). See the Editorial page for more details.

LESBIAN MOTHERS' PRESENTATION

The Lesbian Mothers Support Group was asked to send a representative to be on a panel about the family in the Feminist Political Theory class at U.C. No member of that group felt she could risk coming out to such a large number of people, so we sent this anonymous written presentation. On the night of the panel there was an empty chair for a lesbian mother, and a teaching assistant stood up and read the following.

This presentation is coming to you right out of the closet. We knew if we told you publicly who we were we would face a very real threat of losing our families and the jobs that support our families. At the same time, we wanted you to hear from us because we, as lesbian parents, are living an important feminist alternative to the traditional patriarchal family.

Many of us are closeted lesbians to the straight world as well as closeted mothers to the lesbian community. It has been hard for us to receive support for our particular lifestyles from either straight or lesbian friends. As a result we have sought other lesbian mothers out and formed a small but growing, self-sustaining lesbian mother support group. Though none of us knew each other a year ago, we find we are in constant touch with each other now. There are at least 13 of us: we range in age from early 20's to late 40's; some of us are single mothers and some are couples; some have no natural children, some have 3; none of us have very much money; some are still married; some never have been; all of us need support.

One of our most pressing needs for support comes from having to live with the everpresent threat of losing custody of our children to ex-husbands, parents, or others. That threat is not paranoia; about 95% of lesbian custody battles are lost if they go to court. The patriarchy -- our ex-husbands, the court system and almost every other aspect of society -- finds the thought of us as womyn raising children without traditional mother/father roles and without men very threatening.

As a result, some of us are afraid to come to our Mothers support group for fear of getting caught associating with lesbians. All of us at one time or another have had to deal directly with the probability of losing custody of our children in court. Those of us who were awarded custody of our children in divorce settlements know we can always be subjected to another custody battle as long as we are lesbians. We limit our political and social involvement with other lesbians because of this. We cannot be honest with ex-husbands, families, school teachers, co-workers, babysitters, neighbors, and sometimes friends, lawyers, and even therapists about our lives. It is frustrating and degrading to live like this.

Because we have been socialized to think we are deviant we often fight feeling guilty for "subjecting" our children to our lifestyles. We try harder than most mothers to prove that we are good mothers, and tend to blame ourselves and our lesbianism first when our children have problems. We want to be honest with our children but have a hard time asking them to hide their mothers' lifestyles from the rest of the world.

So while we talk about ordinary mothering experiences in our support group, we spend a lot of time talking about the special problems we have as lesbian mothers. We have found that it has been difficult sharing these problems, and the mothering part of our lives, with our lesbian friends without children because of their rejection of heterosexuality. We all feel like we need and want the support of our feminist and lesbian sisters and we are making an effort, individually and as a group, to sensitize other lesbians to us.

LESBIAN MOTHERS' PRESENTATION CON'T

We feel good about ourselves as lesbians. All of us, without, exception, have had to overcome a tremendous amount to come out to ourselves, break away from our husbands, and start new lives as lesbians. We were pretty sure of who we were by the time we were done. Living as lesbians we are more fulfilled both as womyn and as mothers. We feel that we and our children have been gifted by getting the chance to live outside the framework of the patriarchal family.

The reaction to this presentation was moving and supportive. A real consciousness raiser to the people in the class. For information, call Dee, 961-5934.

SPINNING WITH MARY DALY

Gyn/Ecology: The Metaethics of Radical Feminism, published in 1978 by Beacon Press, is Mary Daly's Summons to us. Come, she writes, look for your past, search for the Mothers, throw off the patriarchal death grasp, celebrate your Self.

And you cannot deny her.

"The Journey of this book ... is (to borrow an expression from the journal Sinister Wisdom) 'for the Lesbian Imagination in All Women.' It is for the Hag/Crone/Spinster in every living woman. It is for each individual Journeyer to decide/expand the scope of this imagination within her."

You begin your Journey with Processions, a word Mary uses to encompass the obsolete myths which cloud and thwart our vision, render us confused and disabled, and encourage us to become "fembots," "Totalled Women." She uncovers layers of lies and thick veneers of suffocating oppression.

After "A-mazing" your way through Processions, you journey through The Sado-Ritual Syndrome: The Re-enactment of Goddess Murder. Hideous crimes against us are detailed and exposed: Indian Suttet, Chinese footbinding, African genital mutilation, European Witchburning, and American gynecology. This painful passage is hideous to our woman Selves and impossible to comprehend within any male-defined philosophical framework. Mary leads us through this gynocidal/real world, forcing us to feel, to identify with our Sisters, to reject all the so-called reasons for these crimes against us.

Gyn/Ecology: Spinning New Time/Space is the concluding Passage. It is not this reviewer's/renewer's intention to tip Mary's hand. Just be ready for her insight into what you have lived and what you are living. Read and re-read about the Un-Convention of Crones, Earthquakes, and Sparking.

Don't wait for the paperback on this one. Gyn/Ecology is expensive. Storm the libraries; put it on your gift list; give up giving us and buy it. Gyn/Ecology is a long book and more difficult to read than any history of man/mad kind. Read it with your Lesbian, Witch, Crone, Hag, Fury, Harpie, Spinster intellect and heart in "playful Cerebration."

Doctor R.

Nastasha told me she thinks I am sometimes too ex-Catholic. I think laughter puts everything in its' place. Consequently, to fulfill my own spiritual enchantment with life, I have developed my own 'be there when you get there' philosophy that is almost based on and a modification of the questions and answers found in the Baltimore Catechism, a text used to subdue baby Catholics.

Q. Who is God?

A. God is responsible for this mess.

Q. Does God have a sense of humor?

A. Obviously.

Q. Why did God make me?

A. God made me to play jokes on.

A. God made me to write it all down.

Q. How did God make me?

A. By force/farce.

Q. What does God have planned for me?

A. Some surprises.

Q. What are some examples of God's love for me?

A. Drugs & cookies.

Q. What are some of God's other products?

A. Impatience with the inept.

A. Sunburns.

A. Life.

Q. What is life?

A. Life is a mood.

A. Life is a minefield.

A. Life is a matter of opinion.

A. Life is just one of those things.

A LESBIAN ALCOHOLIC

Janet sat there, watching the couples dance slowly to the rhythm of a romantic ballad, nervously gripping her whiskey sour. A few hasty gulps, and her tension relaxed enough to venture a more casual glance at the surroundings. For Janet was one of the many lesbians who have turned to the "gay bar" as a source of finding and establishing friendships and relationships among other women with whom we can meet, talk, dance, relax, be sexual-to be totally ourselves. Before the evening was over, Janet had had several drinks, and was feeling very relaxed. She had met several women who either worked or lived in her neighborhood, and had even made a casual "dinner date" for the next evening. So it was in high spirits that she returned home that night. The following morning, however, found her in a different mental state. She had a hangover, was very nervous & paranoid. Suppose some of her straight friends found out that she had been in a gay bar-what would they think? She had such mixed feelings about everything in a state of panic and guilt, Janet took a few sips of the special wine that was used only when un-expected company dropped in. Feeling much calmer and laughing at herself for being so panicky over something so stupid, she thought to herself. As she dressed for work, I'll have a few drinks before going on my dinner date tonight and I'll feel at ease, and I'll be able to be myself, talk and have a good time. I won't be shy or nervous.

At first glance at the above scene, one would hardly say that it was indicative of a possible beginning on the road to alcoholism. To understand the warning signs, above, we first have to understand Alcoholism. What is alcoholism? "Alcoholism is a disease in which the person's use of alcohol causes problems in some area of her life, physical health, job, family or others. It is an obsession of the mind and an allergy of the body. It is insidious, progressive, and chronic. Alcoholism, like any other disease has no regard to race, sex, age, or religion. Categorically, alcohol is a drug, and as such, chronic use leads to drug dependency, and ultimately, drug addiction. It is the only legal drug on the market that needs no prescription, is highly publicized to "buy and enjoy", and socially acceptable. Few, if any, choose to be an alcoholic. So what causes a person to start on the road to alcoholism?

Let's take another, closer look at Janet. Right off the bat she exhibits personality traits that are found in most alcoholics. Loneliness, need for acceptance, recognition from her peers that she's an ok person, and the feeling of belonging. Then, even after she arrives at the bar, she is uneasy, and unable to be actively sociable until she has a few drinks. She is using the alcohol as a social lubricant, as a substitute for dealing with her negative emotions. Having once done this, she will stand a good chance of using it again for the same reason. And she does.

Fear and guilt paralyze her when she awakens, and she turns to the same solution as the night before - alcohol. Without consciously choosing to, she is using alcohol as an emotional crutch, and a solution to her problems, taking the first steps down the road to alcohol dependency. A road that has only 3 exits - death, insanity, or sobriety through total abstinence. Why the fear and guilt to begin with? In working with most cases, it is debatable as to whether the fear and guilt feelings are there before the drinking, or are there as a result of the drinking. But in Janet's case, they were very real because of societal attitudes. And not just society, but even family, friends, employers, teachers, and even doctors. Condemnation, ostracism, loss of job - all of these are real fears for the active lesbian. In opening up a new vista of opportunity to meet other lesbians that she could communicate with, and share her life-style with, Janet also opened a Pandora's box of new problems. Society knowing of the frustrations and anger brewing inside us, decided we need a place to vent our feelings, and so the gay bar came into existence. The atmosphere is relatively pleasant and relaxed, but a comparison of other bar prices show we are still

being exploited. Alcoholism is encouraged, and the anger that should be directed toward one another, as it always is when people are ghettoized. We get uptight, jealous, and strungout on the destructive bar atmosphere. It is not long before the "Janet's" become more and more dependent on alcohol, until there comes a time when they no longer choose to drink; they have to drink to function.

When Janet first became aware that she was losing, or had lost control of her drinking, she rationalized this. "No wonder, anyone with all the problems I have would drink", "It's just until I get over this nervous period", "I've just been under such a strain worrying about my job". Then she decided to go on the wagon for awhile. After having been without a drink for 2 weeks, she decided to "just have one" to reward herself. To her dismay and remorse, she couldn't remember past the 3rd one, that she hadn't intended to have anyway. Scared now, she decided to learn what she could about alcoholism. But all the self-knowledge she had obtained in her research, and the strongest determination not to repeat her previous behaviour, was not enough to keep her from taking that "one little drink that wouldn't hurt her." and getting drunk, she realized that she needed outside help. Thinking that this must be a mental problem, she sought the help of a psychiatrist who felt that if she solved her emotional problems, she could drink again socially. In the meantime, he gave her Librium to "help calm her nerves" during her period of abstinence from alcohol. During the course of treatment, he suggested her homosexuality was the result of her alcoholism, while his colleague expounded the theory elsewhere that alcoholism was the result of guilt feelings from homosexual behaviour. While not putting down the field of psychiatry in any way, or trying to indicate a layperson would have more working knowledge of alcoholism than a professional person, it has been substantiated that there are relatively few successful methods of treating alcoholism, and each of them have a very low percentage except for Alcoholics Anonymous. Before the problem of "why" you drink can be handled, you first must treat the alcoholism itself. Learn how to live one day at a time, alcohol free, with the support and understanding of those that have lived the problem themselves. Substituting one drug for another, such as Librium, is only substituting one addiction for another. Because alcoholics are either physically, or emotionally, dependent (addicted) to any mood altering substance (or both), they must learn to live a way of life that is drug free. Janet learned that the hard way when she finally had to be hospitalized while trying to shake the addiction she had developed while taking the Librium. It was during her stay in the hospital she attended her first AA meeting. In a way it reminded her of her first night at the gay bar. Here she was nervous again about socializing for the first time with people that shared a common life-style. But this time she didn't have to have a drink to socialize. Before she knew it, she was enjoying herself, and over the next few weeks she came to learn that having others accept you as you are is only half the battle, accepting and liking yourself as you are is the other half.

After coming into AA, Janet had one slip. Or as some refer to it, alcoholism being a disease, a relapse. Like many another who gave up drinking, it was much harder to give up frequenting the place where we drank, or the friends we drank with. In Janet's situation there was another complication. That of socializing in the lesbian community. The gay bar was the focal point of that area of her life. After frequenting the bar for a period of several weeks, and attending fewer and fewer AA meetings, she lapsed into a period of self-pity that eventually led to drinking again. Fortunately for Janet, she had acquired friends that really cared about her and her well being. One of these, Marsha, had acquired literature on alcoholism, and attended several open AA meetings (open AA meetings are designed to help the alcoholics family and friends understand the disease). Realizing that sympathizing, or reinforcing the denial system by accepting Janets' excuses or rationalizing, she confronted her with the consequences of her behaviour, but at the same time let her know she cared. Many alcoholics aren't as fortunate. Their so called "friends" try to coax them into just "one drink", not realizing their next drink may be their last permanently.

With two years sobriety behind her now, Janet is not just active in AA, but with the help of her friend, Marsha, is trying to find alternative ways than a gay bar to find and maintain lesbian companionship. Realizing the need to avoid an alcohol atmosphere, Marsha and other friends have planned bowling parties, coffee clatches, an evening of dinner and the movies, and other activities that Janet can enjoy, and to their surprise, find they enjoy themselves even more. They control the atmosphere; they set the terms; and no one makes money off them. They are currently seeking to expand their activities to provide a chance for gay women to get together, rap, and share their problems, without substituting one set of problems for another.

This article was written by Ms. Dorothy Miller who has been active in working with woman alcoholics over the past 2½ years. While assistant manager and counselor at a halfway house for the rehabilitation of women alcoholics, she encountered many clients who were burdened by the dual pressure of society's labeling them outcasts, once for being a woman alcoholic, and once for being a lesbian. Therefore, she saw that their recovery was made even more difficult. She realizes the great need in the community for one to be knowledgeable of the disease of alcoholism and supportive of the lesbian alcoholic who is on her way to recovery.

To obtain further information on alcoholism contact:

In Cincinnati

Alcoholics Anonymous - 861-4211

Council on Alcoholism Information Center - 281-7880

St Francis Hospital Care Unit - 244-5292

For relatives or friends of the problem drinker

Al-Anon Family Group - 891-2055

For those of you located outside of Cincinnati, consult your telephone directory for the number of Alcoholics Anonymous and they can direct you further.

Anyone requesting information on the above article, please send inquiries to Dinah, P.O. Box 1485, Cinti, Ohio, 45201

OTTER CREEK SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE

There will be a spirituality conference for lesbians only May 11, 12, & 13 at Otter Creek, a park in the Louisville, Kentucky area. There will be workshops and a concert by Linda Shear on Saturday night. \$26.00 includes lodging and vegetarian meals for the weekend. Bring sleeping bags & utensils. Workshop suggestions still being accepted. For more information, write: Daughters of Earth, P.O. Box 8125, Louisville, KY 40208. THANK YOU, LUCINA, FOR THE INFORMATION!

EVERY WOMAN'S VIEW

Every Woman's View (Your Basic Feminist Newsletter) is an area newsletter put out by a "group of women who share a common belief in feminism." They have just published their fourth issue and are looking for articles and news of women's activities for future issues. They welcome comments, criticisms, and contributions. To contact them, write: 4258 Dane Ave., No. 2, Cincinnati, OH 45223.

GLIMPSE

From the moment the customers arrived in the morning, Millie was incessantly talking. Sometimes she would talk about the same thing all day long. She would continue the conversation with each new customer and when there were none- resume it with Amanda.

Amanda worked with Millie in first floor Notions of Sloane's department store. Amanda liked Millie, she liked her frizzled red hair and her vivid red lips. Even though there were times when Amanda felt trapped working alongside of Millie, trapped by her chatter and drenched by her words, she always liked to watch Millie ring up sales. Millie had rapport with the register. As her flaming nails on gnarled fingers would blaze across the keys, Amanda would think "She makes her machine ring."

Amanda found beauty in the things she sold: the short, straight rows of the zippers and the silver of the hanging scissors, which Millie called shears. Sometimes when the press of customers or the talk of Millie would box her in, Amanda would stand for a moment before the spools of thread and the arrangement of the colors would somehow release her. The spools were arranged in tones of graduating color. On the left would be the lightest pink which would brighten, flicker and then darken into the darkest red. Yellow would grow to orange and orange would rust into brown. Salad green would become Christmas green and if she started backwards black would move through grey to white.

Although there were raw edges in the friendship of Millie and Amanda, together they shared a window. It was a small window in the back room of their department. There wasn't much of a view out that window, just an alleyway, but in a huge downtown, air conditioned department store any window at all is either a mistake or a miracle. In the afternoons when it was quiet Millie and Amanda would sneak back to the window for a smoke. Mrs. Millhouse from stationery would cover for them and take care of their customers.

Millie and Amanda left their registers for their break by the window. They stood looking out and Millie, as always, was talking. It had just started to rain when two girls stepped out of the store's back door, into the alleyway. They looked like college kids in their plaid skirts and peter pan blouses. They looked up to the sky with delight, whirled around and let the rain fall on their faces. Then they reached their arms around each other, drew together close and kissed, unaware of the building's only window.

Amanda felt as if she'd seen a vision, one with beauty in it, but she knew that others wouldn't have seen it that way. She turned and looked toward Millie and found Millie's eyes looking back. Millie hadn't said a word but Amanda knew that she had seen the beauty, too.

Lois McGuinness

This story is from an anthology of writings and graphics called CONTEMPLATION. It was written and published by Cincinnati - Dayton lesbians in 1975 and is available at the coffees or by sending \$1.50 plus 30¢ postage to: phebe c/o Beiser 59 Graham St., #1 Cinti, OH 45219. SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SISTERS"

Dayton, Ohio area lesbians would like us to announce that they have a change of address. They are also putting out a calendar of events. To contact them, write: LESBIANS UNITED, P.O. Box 303, Mid City Station, Dayton, OH 45402.

Don't forget to tell your friends about the coffees! They are held every Thursday night, 7:30 - 10:00 P.M. at the YWCA (fourth floor), 9th & Walnut Streets, downtown Cincinnati.

SERFING IN THE U.S.A.:
A CLOSER LOOK AT FEAR AND ANGER IN TWO MODERN LESBIAN NOVELS

Two popular motifs in modern Lesbian literature are fear and anger. Presupposing that society at large makes these more than accessible themes for Lesbian writers, I propose that it is a shared sense of committedness which prompts Lesbians to utilize their universal oppression by turning homophobic impulses into didactic and creative literary works. By relating to their readers the fears, anger and emotional consequences of sex-role stereotyping, the committed Lesbian writer accentuates the special problems and social repercussions which are generated by an intolerant system. To illustrate my point, I will examine the fear which surrounds Molly Bolt in Rita Mae Brown's semi-autobiographical Rubyfruit Jungle and the explosive anger in Monique Wittig's brilliant novel, Les Guerilleres.

Molly Bolt, a young, tough, poor-white from Coffee Hollow, experienced the anguish and the monstrous belly-ache of societal fears surrounding sexual identity. Indeed, at the age of seven, Molly discovered that she was not only a "bastard" but a target of scorn and torment for "God-fearing" people such as her adopted mother -- Carrie. Carrie's envy of Molly's determinism grew with Molly's achievements and leadership; Carrie resented Molly's intelligence by dismissing it as a handicap:

"Smart as she (Molly) is, a woman can't get on in this world without a husband." (pg. 39)

At Fort Lauderdale High School Molly was in for another, perhaps deeper, jolt: her first woman lover, captain of the cheerleaders, betrayed Molly in front of their mutual friend in a guilt-ridden better-than-thou game:

"I'm very feminine, how can you call me queer? Maybe Molly, after all, she plays tennis and can throw a football as far as Clark, but not me." (pg. 104)

"Lesbians look like men and are ugly." (pg. 104)

Having predicted that she would, Molly found college life to be more complex but certainly not any more comprehensive than her high school experience. Her short stay and abrupt departure were prompted by the discovery that she and her roommate were lovers; once again, Molly was betrayed, in part, by "closet" lesbian fears. The dean of women, Miss Marne, had this to say:

"Young lady, you are going directly to the psychiatrist. You are obviously a hostile, destructive personality and need supervision." (pg. 129)

Molly summed up her chaotic existence at Gainesville Florida Girls' State University in the following manner:

"I left my books in my room except for my English book, left my term papers and football programs and my last scrap of innocence. I closed the door forever on idealism and the essential goodness of human nature and walked to the Greyhound bus station ..." (pg. 131)

An ominous hiss of anger underscores the exciting, poetic rhythm of Les Guerilleres. The anger builds to a crescendo of alarming magnitude but Monique Wittig's political committedness leaves the reader with constructive strategies for coping in any society where sexual revolution is imminent. Ms. Wittig startles her patriarchally-imbued readership by asserting the Female Principle of the Universe and exalting the potential power of womankind:

"THE WOMEN AFFIRM IN TRIUMPH THAT ALL ACTION IS OVERTHROW."
(Introductory Chant - last two lines)

While her wild and unsettling tempo is accentuated by moments of sheer rapture, Monique's eloquent narrative allures the armies of Womyn* everywhere to slither into an ageless battle and provide a deadly game; her anger is the color of menstrual blood and urine:

"They say that the river is rising up between its banks ... All along the river there is an odour of putrescence. A noise like that of a broken flood-gate is heard ... They say that for a long while on the way back they heard the rushing of the river, the shock of the current against its bed."

"The children go from one to the other trying to wake them up, using stone buckets of water, shouting with all their might, squatting down to be at the level of the ears of the sleeping women." (pg. 20)

Les Guerilleres is a provocative account of what might happen if the female, human animal, rises to Her fury to seize her spiritual glory in Sisterhood:

"The women say that any one of them might equally well invoke another sun goddess, such as Cihuacoatl, who is also a goddess of war. Thus on the occasion of the death of one of their number they might use the song of mourning which is a glorious song. Then they sing in unison ..."

Though their styles and purposes may be as varied as the contrasting works by Brown and Wittig, committed Lesbian writers expose fear and anger as personal and political notions which must be re-evaluated and utilized for the betterment of society. Brown's biting humor of closet-fear betrayal is a glaring nightmare compared to Wittig's enchanting mantra on the promise of sisterhood; yet, both authors are intent on denouncing 'man' as being responsible for the 'woman's' conditioned fears and inverted hatred. Modern Lesbian authors who are as committed as Brown and Wittig are enlightening to young Lesbians seeking positive reinforcement for their survival tactics. By reclaiming their emotional strength from the clutches of patriarchal tyranny, Lesbians can create a new culture: a new language and life-style based on their love, their needs and strength.

* Womyn -- a radical way of identifying 'woman' as not being dependent on 'man':

A Feminist spelling of the Family of Sisters.

-- Kathy Nolan

EXHIBITION OF WOMEN ARTISTS

"Expressions," an exhibition of Cincinnati area women artists, will open at the New Central Library at the University of Cincinnati with a reception on March 16, 7:00-9:00 P.M. and continue through April 21, 1979. Gallery Hours:

M-TH 8:00 am - 12:00 am

F 8:00 am - 6:00 pm

Sat 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sun 12:00 pm - 12:00 am

Free at all times & open to the public. Curators are Ali Hansen and Valerie Pinkerton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOL

SOL (Slightly Older Lesbians) is a discussion support group for lesbians 30 and over. We are thriving (!) and have been meeting and providing mutual support since November, 1978. Our upcoming topics include:

- April 11 -- Dyke Clothing: Dressing for Other Women
- April 25 -- Men: Are They Worth Discussing?
- May 9 -- Coming Out: Who Are You and Where Are You Coming From?
- May 12 -- SOL picnic at Miami-Whitewater Park
- May 23 -- Topic Open

Wimmins Spirituality Group

Wimmins spirituality group has decided to reopen on the spring equinox. Any women interested in exploring spirituality from a matriarchial perspective, contact Phebe, 381-8556.

Cincinnati Women Working

One of every three women who work in Cincinnati is an office worker. We perform a vital function in our companies. And yet we are most often underpaid, overworked and not accorded the respect we deserve as competent professionals.

In cities across the country from Boston to San Francisco, women office workers are uniting to take action on their common job problems. Cincinnati Women Working is joining this nationwide movement to upgrade the status of women office workers. If you are interested, call 381-6003 or write Cincinnati Women Working, 9th and Walnut, Cincinnati, OH 45202.

The Crazy Ladies Bookstore

Women's Books, Music, Artwork, Posters!!
Watch for The Crazy Ladies Bookstore.

DINAH Needs Typists!

DINAH keeps growing and growing, and she needs all the nimble fingers she can get to help type her. Anyone interested in helping out with the next issue, please contact Phebe, 381-8556.

THERAPISTS' SUPPORTIVENESS OF HOMOSEXUALITY: A QUESTIONNAIRE

The psychological and psychiatric literature is replete with examples of gross injustices done to homosexuals in the name of therapy. Although both the American Psychological and American Psychiatric Associations have removed homosexuality from their list of mental disorders, homophobia still exists among many therapists, even in Cincinnati. For this reason I would like to compile a Better Business Bureau-type scale of local therapists as regards their attitudes toward homosexuality. The list of ratings will be made available to you in a future issue of DINAH and will be kept on file at Women Helping Women and LAB. For this I must solicit your help which will, of course, remain confidential.

For each therapist you have seen within the last three years who still practices within the greater Cincinnati area, please provide the following information:

1. Her/his name: _____
2. Extent to which your homosexuality was an issue in your therapy:
- | | | |
|--|------------------------|--------------------------|
| | ----- | |
| | It was not
an issue | It was the
main issue |
3. Her/his supportiveness of your homosexuality:
- | | | |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| | ----- | |
| | Extremely
Unsupportive | Extremely
Supportive |
4. The way in which her/his supportiveness or lack of supportiveness was shown:
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
5. You are a: Female Male

If you have seen more than one therapist within the last three years who still practices in the greater Cincinnati area, please use extra pages. Finally, please send your responses to the above questions to:

Therapist Rating Scale
Dinah
P.O. Box 1485
Cincinnati, OH 45201

Thank you for your help!

THE COMMON WOMON RISES DAILY

THE COMMON WOMON RISES DAILY, packs up her virtues, puts on wooden shoes and goes on familiar trips. Always she is within someone else's boundaries. Often she is asked for more than she should rightly give. Seldom does she rest and give only to herself.

WE ARE ALL COMMON WOMYN, with different shoe sizes and different dreams. We see each other on those familiar trips into someone else's pocketbook, someone else's command. We can see through all hiding those secret pains left from walking in someone else's boundaries. We raise our brows with open faces but do not speak of what we see.

We love and mother and hope for happiness. We pretend that the subtle wound does not hurt us, and we are puzzled about our sons. We type and file and nurse and teach. We smile and nod and keep on walking from here to there and back again, usually for someone else's needs. Our pains, our journey, our silent truth is as common to us as the heritage we ignore, as the primitive dream that visits our common sleep, stirring us, like a fantasy and a warning and a revellie.

"I AM OF THE GROVE. I have come to you in this dream because you send for me, unknowing and knowing who I am and why you call me, call me through centuries of yourself always the same, even in different bodies. I want you to see The Grove, this place where we all live, unknowing and knowing.

The Grove is an island without disconnection. Here is the lagoon and beyond it the ocean and on its edge, the lip of the sky. Sometimes when the sky is black and purple and blue, we enter it through a portal and float outside our bodies, trusting the universe. Sometimes when we have seen too much of the ocean, we create a desert for ourselves and we fast and free our souls."

WE ARE THE GROVE, as much as the land is the Grove and the Grove is the island. The island cannot be mapped or The Grove defined. We cannot be mapped or defined except by ourselves and ourselves in a community of us that we choose. We are all those sacred creatures that prophets call myths: mermaids, dolphins, singing whales, unicorns, healers, witches, Sirens, Furies, Fates, Menses, Warriors, dream givers, love makers, Lesbians. We are of the Moon and the Cycle of Life. We know who our mothers were and we know the majesty of our lineage. We have seen pictures of our grandmothers carrying spears.

The Grove comes to us in each a different vision, flowing out of us from our minds, mouths, fingers, vaginas. It is a song and a prophesy and a revolution and a hope and a splendid orgasm which we all and each bear in our bosoms and our tears. It reminds us of Lesbos but is our own and no re-creation. We make it new every day. We make it.

WE ARE ALL OF THE GROVE, connected by our vision and our dream, by our common pain, by our outreach for strength, by a push and pull, a chain of movement which does not halt or falter but sways and surges always forward.

We are The Grove as much as the land is the Grove and the Grove is the island, an island without isolation. Let us be without isolation. From our hearts and sharing our dearest cause. From our bodies that gleam and leap and shed sunlight like no other elegant animal we can imagine. From our womon-ness, which bleeds and weeps and re-news and has born up greater things than now written. From our self love and sister love, more than cherished ideals, harder than any marriage we now understand. From our child selves, which must be given a measure of play even as our skin loosens on the bone.

WE ARE THE COMMON WOMON. WE ARE OF THE GROVE. We have our island for always and whenever we need the dream. But we have a special knowledge. That the island without disconnection, without isolation, IS US, BECOMES US, can become the world we now need to escape, that isolated world where we so often walk in someone else's boundaries. --Gingerlox

Gingerlox has just published her first novel, Berrigan, with The Naiad Press, Inc. She has published poetry previously in Furies, The Lesbian Tide, Sisters and Focus.

* * * * *

BOOK REVIEW

BERRIGAN by Gingerlox, 1978.

Naiad Press, Inc., 7800 Westside Drive, Weatherby Lake, MO 64152
Paper, 160 pages, \$5.50

I bought the book called Berrigan, brought it home and began to read. So this is Berrigan -- this is Berrigan by Gingerlox. The book is a 160 page word sculpture of a woman called Berrigan, a woman creating, a woman giving life to herself. The creation of Berrigan is painful, it is joyous, it is sensual, it is real. Each person she meets, each experience she has, add another beat to the drumroll before the final unveiling of Berrigan. The suspense is exquisite.

In the beginning, Gingerlox concentrates on creating Berrigan through the women she meets. There is therapist Doris, who tells Berrigan "to live her love instead of thinking it"; Syru, who shows her the political side of women; Mac THE DYKE; and Evelyn, Berrigan's womanfriend and confidante. Yet we know there must be a catalyst for the completion of Berrigan and there is: her name is Corette, the woman, lover, sensitive painter of acrylic emotion, the seer. Corette chugs into Berrigan's life in a bright red Ambassador and we know what is to come. Berrigan is finally here, all of her, and the unveiling is truly a glorious event. They "live their love" together and we revel in their happiness and womanness. Gingerlox pulls us into their love with emotion and finesse. They seem invincible to us, yet The Fates and the author will remind us that they are not. Corette dies in a sailing accident and both Berrigan and the reader are decimated. Gingerlox allows us to agonize with Berrigan. The powerful and devastating imagery in the pages after Corette's death vault us into Berrigan's grief. In the end, Berrigan must find the strength to go on with life from within herself and she does. As she goes on with her life, we celebrate her strength as a person and as a woman. Gingerlox has created the "ultimate winner" -- Berrigan.

- Paula Ellen Hinds

Polly Hinds is a poet, recently graduated from Colorado Womens' College where she served as staff art reviewer for the student newspaper and published her poetry in campus literary magazines. She won the college Library Associates Prism Award for poetry. Polly is currently writing a play about women in a sanitarium.

THE CASSANDRA CIRCLE
(From Mitylene, capital of Lesbos)

For our new readers: This is a "cornycopia" page--a corny coping of problems in the Dear Abby style. Please write your facetious problems to Dear Cassandra, DINAH, c/o LAB etc., or phone them in to Emma.

Dear Cassandra,

Is it true that Vitamin E will help one's sex life???

Vitawomin

Dear Vitawomin,

Only in the case of anew love. Perhaps it may help heal the scars of an old hurt.

Dear Cassandra,

I am an innocent 22-year-old virgin from Hicksville, Babe County,---. For some unexplained reason, my mother turned celibate when I was ten, and walked out on my father. She now lives with another woman for economic reasons. She keeps her hair very short and wears flannel shirts and jeans. Actually, I think she looks quite attractive. I love her very dearly and do everything she says.

My problem is connected with this. Ever since she left my father, my mother has tried to keep me away from sex (what else could she possibly mean?) with the stern advice, "How would you like a body lying on top of you?" I have always shuddered at the thought.

Recently I have become friends with a very interesting woman who told me she was "glad" or something like that. I told her I was glad to meet her too. One night I stayed over at her place and we slept together. I didn't see anything wrong with that since my dear mother and her roommate sleep in the same bed too. It saves space in a one-bedroom apartment, she says. Anyway, my friend started to touch me and caress me--it was the most beautiful feeling I've ever had. I began to return her caresses but suddenly my mother's words came to my mind as she lay on top of me, and I froze. I have tried again with my friend but my mother's words have created a mental and physical block. I love my friend and want to share what I call the "secrets of the night" with her--but can't. What shall I do?

Naive-but-on-the-Brink

Dear Naive-but-on-the-Brink,

Once you are "over" the hurdle, I think you will understand your mother and learn that "economic necessity" can mean a very satisfying lifestyle. However, if your immediate concern is your literal interpretation of your mother's words, I can at one stroke help you understand her advice and solve your problem. My words are--TURN BUTCH--AND LIE ON TOP.

Happy Hopping!*

* I am indebted for this glad phrase to my "Anonymous but Amorous" correspondent of the January issue. My above correspondent says she owes the "glad" joke to Patty.

BLESSED BE.

Cassandra.

DINAH CLASSIFIEDS

FILL THE GAP IN YOUR RECORD COLLECTION. Therese Edell's From Women's Faces. Tender, hard-driving, right-on songs from Cincinnati women. \$6.60 postpaid (Ohioans add 4½% tax). SEA FRIENDS RECORDS, P.O. BOX 20015-D, Cincinnati, OH 45220.

Gay female, problem with alcohol. Wishes to write to others for questions and answers. I don't know when things changed. S.A. Simpson, 1448 West River Road, Apt. A, Elyria, Ohio 44035

NEW BOOK ON WIMMIN'S SPIRITUALITY by Z. Budapest and others. THE HOLY BOOK OF WOMAN'S MYSTERIES is in manuscript form but needs donations to be published by Moon Books. Send energy & money to Z. Budapest, 1018 Marine St., Santa Monica, CA 90405.

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THE LEAPING LESBIAN is a bimonthly magazine from Ann Arbor, Michigan, containing interviews, essays, cartoons, fiction, erotica, news and exchange of ideas among women. A subscription to Vol. #3, 1979 (six issues and six bimonthly news supplements) is \$6 (regular), \$4 (low-income) and \$10 (supporting). LL is trying to expand and improve itself, and needs your support and subscriptions. Write: LL, Box 7715, Ann Arbor, MI 48107. Contributions of articles, fiction, graphics, interviews, feedback, etc. are warmly welcomed!

YES!!! I like having DINAH come to my house every month. She is one of my favorite visitors. Here is my donation. Please keep her coming!

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NOTE: See editorial page for Classified Ad rates.

THANKS

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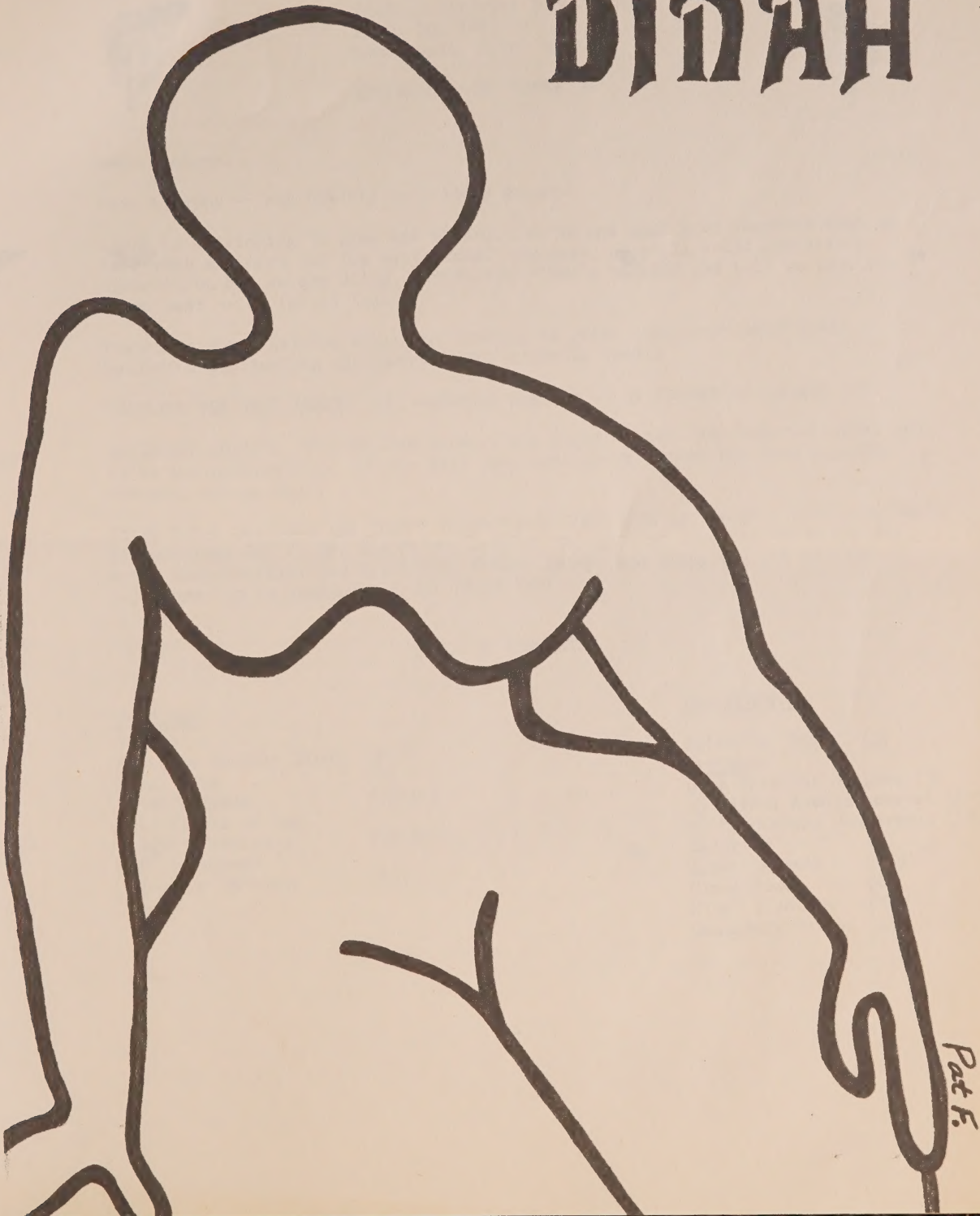
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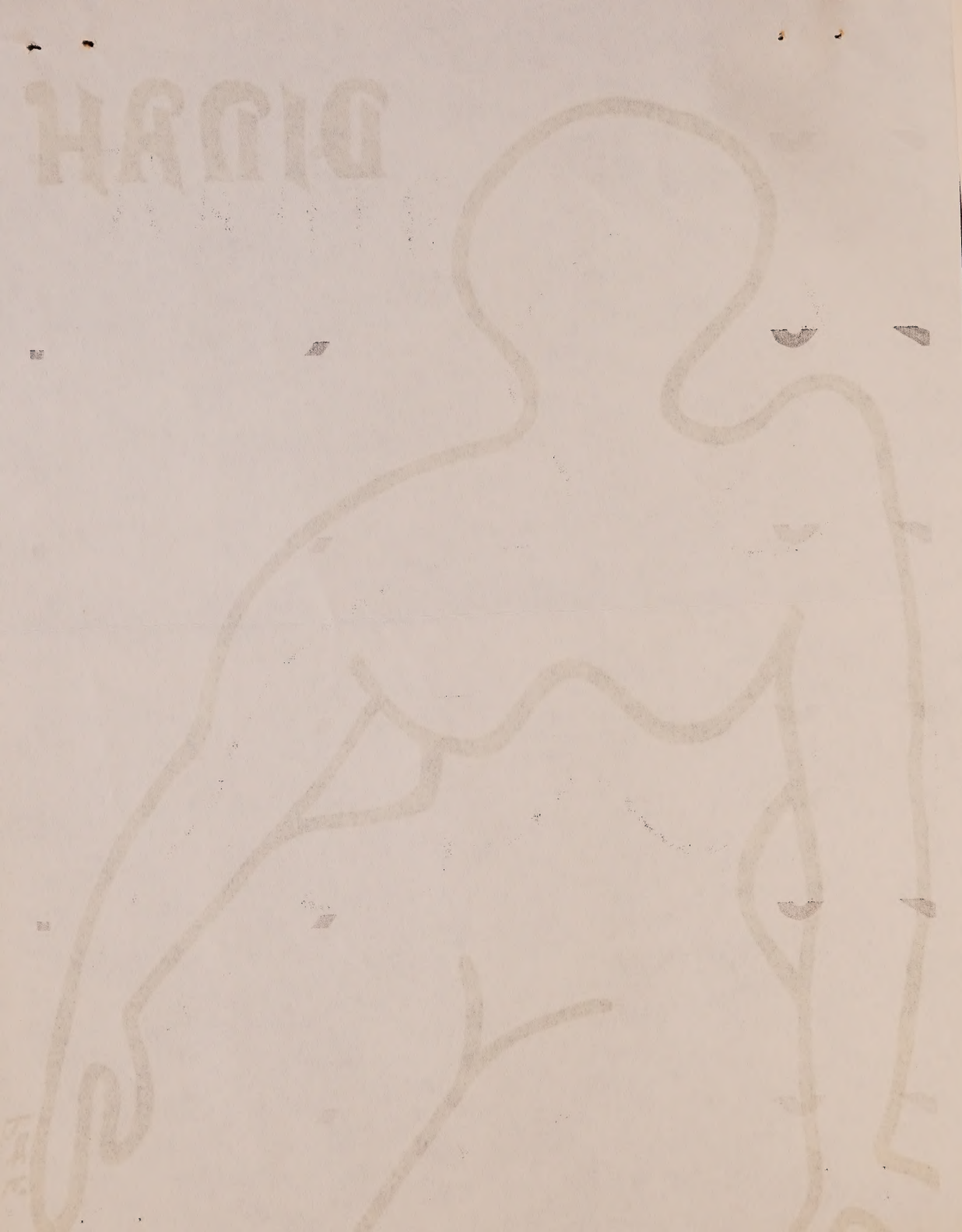
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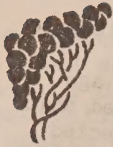
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DIDAH



Pat. F.





Monthly Publication of the
Lesbian Activist Bureau, Inc.
P. O. Box 1485
Cincinnati, Ohio 45201



DECEMBER 1978 ISSUE

Dear Sisters,

Have a happy -- and healthy -- holiday season!

DINAH is continuing to grow and expand. We've had such good response that we held some articles for the next issue! However, we still would appreciate comments on how we are doing. Write c/o DINAH's MAILBAG and tell us what you liked best -- or (gulp) least.

Thanks to Women Helping Women for letting us print this issue with their wonderful duplicating equipment! (Our mimeo is dead.)

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: All material must be in by Thursday, January 4th.

EDITORIAL POLICY: The editors reserve the right to edit any material submitted to us for publication. If you feel your article or letter has been unjustly changed, let us know.

THANK YOU & MAY YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS COME TRUE to: phebe, C.S., and Holly for editing; Pat F. for the cover; Joan S. for getting supplies; Janet Fay for doing the stencils; Sue H., Donna, Oshin, Betty, and Peggy W.; and all the collators who go unnamed but not forgotten!

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HOLIDAYS OR HOLY DAZE?

2

Have you ever stopped to think about how -- or even why -- you celebrate Christmas? Is it because you always have?

I began to seriously question celebrating Christmas several years ago when I first discovered Winter Solstice through some friends. I learned that it is traditionally a time to turn inward, to reflect on the outer-directed activities of the previous seasons. We formed a circle and took turns reading lines from Judy Grahn's wonderful poem "She Who." With candles flickering, the cyclical nature of the poem reminded us of our cycles as wimmin. I realized that I shared something deep within this circle that I didn't share with my biological family or the rest of the world.

Ever since then, I have made a conscious effort to remember Winter Solstice in some way. While going through the motions of Christmas with my family, I would grow with my sisters at Winter Solstice. We would always have some special get-together. One year it was hot cider and wimmin's music; last year, it was dinner with a few intimate friends.

Winter Solstice pre-dates Christmas. Before the worship of Baby Jesus, there were celebrations of the rebirth of a Sun Goddess ... called Lucina (Rome), Atthar (Arabia), Inanna (Sumeria), and Amaterasu (Japan). But I never learned of their existence until recently, until I took the time to dig up the facts. I researched book after book and could find next to nothing about any of them. Was this intentional? I believe it was.

Ever since the early Christians first came to power, they ripped off elements of the pagan religion. The Christian Trinity was taken from the three aspects of the Mother -- Life, Death, and Beauty. The Great Mother Herself was incorporated into this new religion in the form of the Virgin Mary! Not only did they rob Her of Her eternal life-giving qualities, but they had the audacity to raise the son above Her. (Prior to Mary and Jesus, there were the Mother-Son combinations of Isis and Horus, Astarte and Baal, and Ishtar and Tammuz, to name a few.) Only by allowing the heathens (people who lived on the heath) to worship the Goddess they loved could they be "convinced" to integrate the new religion of Christianity. (And, if they continued in their old pagan rituals, they could always be burned as witches!) As the old saying goes, "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em!" It became easier to try to impose the new faith over the original pagan celebrations.

This is exactly what happened. Christmas is a continuation under a Christian name of an old solar festival. This season was formerly celebrated as Yule, with feasting and bonfires. The burning of the "yule log" was to help ensure the return of the sun at the end of the winter.

And the Christmas tree itself? Trees have always been associated with the Moon. (The willow is sacred to Hecate; the oak is sacred as a symbol of long life.) Many of us have heard of the May Pole festivities of spring. But how many realize that decorating a tree is a winter solstice ritual? Trees were decorated to honor the Goddess-of-Ten-Thousand-Names.

The solstice is the point at which the sun appears to be the farthest from the equator. It is the shortest day of the year, and the longest night. As a lesbian feminist, how do you choose to spend the longest night of the year?

phebe

IMPORTANT: The Wimmin's Spirituality Project of LAB will have its contract expire January. If you are interested in coming regularly to the Full Moon celebrations, WINTER SOLSTICE WILL BE YOUR LAST CHANCE. The group will close temporarily to those who have already attended and reopen at a later date.

ONE SMALL STEP

On November 26, I watched a T.V. movie called "A Question of Love," and as usual after I watch a T.V. attempt to portray homosexuals, I came away from the set with a raging stomach ache. It was basically a good portrayal and an important step forward. But what upsets my ulcer is that it was, as they always are, such a small step.

"A Question of Love" was about a child custody case in which the ex-husband successfully convinces a jury that the mother was unfit solely on the basis of her lesbianism. The film was, as far as it went, a sensitive portrait of a loving mother against a society which forgives adultery and accepts abortion but will not condone an alternate lifestyle.

There is one aspect, though, that commercial T.V. will only deal with like someone touching a hot stove. It is something that was touched on fleetingly in "That Certain Summer" and done excellently in "A War Widow," though that film was buried in public television. The thing that commercial T.V. is so timid about showing is that gay couples really do love each other.

A lot of footage was spent in "A Question of Love" to show how much the lesbian mother loved her children. While this was fairly well done and very important to the point of the film, it completely eclipsed the much-too-subtle portrayal of the mother's relationship with her lover. The mother, Linda Rae, said several times that she loved Barbara, but this is unconvincing unless backed up with dialogue and dramatic action. We were told that they loved each other, but all too briefly were we shown that love.

I am not suggesting that T.V. should show passionate bed scenes. The masses are certainly not ready for that and we would be defeating our purpose. But good dialogue and good action don't need bed scenes to support them. "A War Widow" is a good example of this. We never see the two women in bed, yet we know by what they say to each other and how they interact that they have a love as deep as any could be.

"A Question of Love" did not pass along to the viewers any strong sense of love between the two women. Without this important aspect, the film's point is only half made. The masses might agree that Linda Rae loved her son and was a good mother, but unless they believe that the child would be in a healthy, loving home, the homophobic masses will never agree that the child should not have been taken away.

In spite of this major flaw, "A Question of Love" is worth seeing if it comes on again. At least T.V. is making a positive attempt, and until the films achieve more depth, I will drink my Mylanta and continue to support such efforts.

CS

P.S. "A Question of Love" was based on a book by Gifford Guy Gibson called By Her Own Admission: A Lesbian Mother's Fight To Keep Her Son. This book is available at Cincinnati's main library downtown.

Don't forget DINAH's deadline for the next issue: January 4. When you get an attack of creativity, please write something! DINAH welcomes your contributions. Write to LAB, P.O. Box 1485, Cinti, OH 45201.

GRAILVILLE PRESENTS AN EVENING OF WIMYN'S FILMS

Grailville is 300 acres of farm land just outside Loveland. Fields, pastures, streams and woods surround a cluster of farm buildings which have been turned into residences, dining hall, oratory, library, book shop, art studio and meeting rooms.

Grailville is owned and operated by the Grail, an international movement of women committed to religious search, liberation, and the development of women's potential for creativity and transforming action in the world around them. The movement is Roman Catholic in origin and honors its roots in that tradition while maintaining an open stance to the participation of women of other traditions in the communal religious search and work for liberation.

Grailville is a subsistence community which aims at being self-supporting. Its members earn their living in large part from fees charged for programs and for use of the facilities by other groups. A smaller percentage of income derives from the farm, the bookstore, donations and partial grants or subsidies for specific programs.

On January 17, 1979, Grailville will sponsor an evening of wimyn's films as part of their "Wine, Wimyn, and Song" series. The films will be: "Like a Rose," a prize-winning documentary on the lives of two wimyn serving long-term prison sentences; "Oh Dear," a film herstory of wimyn's suffrage in Ohio; and "Chris and Bernie," the story of the lives and hopes of two 25-year-old divorced wimyn raising small children.

A gourmet meal (with a vegetarian option) and wine will precede the films. The cost is \$7.50 for dinner and the performance. \$6.00 for full-time students with identification. Make reservations at least 24 hours in advance by calling (513) 683-2340.

LAB REPRESENTED AT PANEL DISCUSSION

"The Future of the Women's Liberation Movement: What Next?" was a panel discussion held at the University of Cincinnati on November 15, 1978. It was sponsored by the UC Women's Center.

The panel included seven women from a variety of feminist organizations or groups which concern themselves with feminism. The organizations represented were Women Helping Women, NAACP, the Socialist Workers Party, the Cincinnati Federation of Teachers, Planned Parenthood, NOW, and Lesbian Activist Bureau. (Although the speakers are all active members of their organizations, they were not necessarily speaking for that organization.)

Ruthanne Roller represented the Lesbian Activist Bureau. She said she was addressing her speech to the world's best group of problem solvers -- women. She stated that we have been struggling for a long time and, "we know that Anita ain't the way, the truth, or the light!"

Ruthanne concluded her part of the panel discussion with a call for unity. "I am a woman, I am a lesbian. My concerns as a woman are for equal pay, equal rights, the right to sexual preference, and the right to freedom from oppression; my concerns as a lesbian are the same."

-- thanks for information,
janet fay and oshin

Sirani Avedis Concert...November 11...Bloomington, Indiana

On a rainy November evening, nine Cincinnati womyn made the three-hour trek to Bloomington to see Sirani in concert at the Unitarian-Universalist Church. (It is rumored that three other Cincinnati womyn arrived in Bloomington late, got caught in rivers of football traffic, and finally ended a fruitless search for the concert at an anonymous Chinese restaurant...)

Those of us who made it to the concert had been inspired either by Sirani's exquisite performance at the Michigan music festival, or by other womyn who had been inspired by that performance. The entire audience seemed to be motivated by this same sense of excited anticipation. The setting in the church was well-suited to a lesbian "non-star" performer: the audience was seated on the same level as Sirani, the chairs forming a cozy semi-circle near her. The professionally executed lighting enhanced this atmosphere. There were no technical difficulties to speak of, save a drooping guitar mike, which Sirani likened to "something gross".

Musically speaking, the performance was excellent. Sirani's clear strong voice is moving, as are the lyrics to her original (all of them) songs. She accompanied herself on guitar and piano and gave a stunning one-woman show.

I have seen Sirani perform three times now. The first was several years ago at Antioch College, when she performed under her former name, "Sally Piano". Following a set by Therese Edell, she exposed many of us to the radical lesbian separatist viewpoint, an ideology which was, at that time, unfamiliar and threatening to many. As a result, quite a few lesbians were turned-off to her then. Since that concert, however, the numbers of womyn bonding and supporting each other as lesbians have grown; more and more womyn have identified their anger and become conscious of the need to spend lesbian energy where it belongs. National publicity and attacks on homosexuality have fostered an even greater cohesion among lesbians; Sally's words become more timely.

The second time I saw Sirani was at this year's Michigan music festival. Her performance showed the refinement and perfection of a matured artist (refer to DINAH, September, 1978).

A third exposure, in Bloomington, revealed "flaws" in her performance that were unnoticed or missing in Michigan. Endings on several songs were abrupt. There is a need for closure in any art form which has a beginning, whether it be a song, a sentence, or a dance. An abrupt ending presents a surprise to the audience, who is jolted into the realization that "it's over." A good ending prepares the listener for the end. Otherwise, the surprise serves as a distraction. This seemed to happen in Sirani's Bloomington concert.

Sirani is quite personable and has a quick wit. She has the ability to give the perfectly appropriate introduction to a song. Her remarks were refreshingly open and honest, albeit lengthy. It was at times

difficult to retain interest through these explanations. Nevertheless, response to the songs was overwhelmingly positive.

The concert ended with Sirani's encore, for disabled womyn - in my opinion her most beautiful and powerful song - and, to more perfectly end this already perfect ending, two Cincinnati womyn presented Sirani with a perfect DINAH t-shirt. Perfect.

-- Holly D/Pat F

DINAH CLASSIFIEDS

Women's Music Project, now disbanded, sincerely thanks the women of Cincinnati who have supported our efforts in concert production during the last few years. We have given our support to Mentoreess Productions and wish them success in their events. We hope that you will support them as you supported us. From the remainder of the Project, Therese Edell, Sally Hershey, and Teresa Boykin, Thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Betsy Lippitt & Therese Edell will perform for a woman-only event on New Year's Eve in Indianapolis. The concert - with dance to follow - is from 9:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. at the Cathedral High School Cafeteria, 5225 East 56 Street. Tickets are \$12 if purchased by December 24, \$14 otherwise (includes refreshments). Write to The Woman's Touch, 6352 West 37 Street, Indianapolis, Indiana for tickets, or call (317) 299-6336.

Looking for a different job? If you are interested in finding a different job or are concerned about your career opportunities, please call Ruthanne at (513) 381-6003.

Womyn who were touched by the music and presence of Sirani Avedis at the Michigan Womyn's Festival, or those who have been lucky enough to hear her in the past, will be pleased to know she is recording and producing her first album on Terrapin Records for a Spring, 1979, release. If you would like to pay for an album in advance, make checks payable to: Sirani Avedis, 721 West Barry, Chicago, Illinois 60657. Albums are \$6.00 postpaid. Be sure to include your name, address, and zip code!

The Feminist Congress of Greater Cincinnati will hold a public meeting on December 22, 1979, at 7:00 p.m., at the Women's City Club, 1349 East Mc Millan. In addition to a special tribute to recently-deceased women's rights leader, Margaret Mead, we will be announcing the 2nd Annual "Christmas Goose of the Year Award."

LAB has a new post office box! So, when you're writing to us with information from your community, or if you have a question, or when you send those \$\$\$\$ to help keep DINAH'S presses rolling, remember our new address: Lesbian Activist Bureau, PO Box 1485, Cincinnati, OH 45201

announcements

dear cincinnati womyn,

i have decided to begin working full-time for a womyn's coffee-house in the early part of 1979 - probably february. by that time i hope to have a very clear picture of how such an operation can work and have a place leased. if anyone would like to work with me on this project in any capacity (including advice), please reach me: peggy wolf

1102 sunnyslope drive (45229)
tel. 2422155

share my excitement!

* * * * *

TO ALL ACTIVE FEMINISTS . . .

A Feminist Workshop is currently being planned by the U.C. Women's Center. The purpose of this workshop will be to bring together active feminists throughout the city to discuss how our current and future status is being affected politically, economically, and socially. Plans at this date are to have two or three wimin give position papers and then to have the entire group discuss those positions in relation to how they agree or disagree with their own ideas. We feel it is of great importance for active feminists to know how their sisters are thinking and working. Hopefully, this workshop will contribute to a more cohesive effort. January 20th is the planned date, and it will be held at U.C. from 12:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. There will be no charge. Complete information will be available after January 3 from: Women Helping Women, 381-6003; the director of L.A.B., Ruthanne Roller, 381-6003; and Women's Studies, 475-6778. Also, you can call the Women's Center, 475-3967. ALL ACTIVE FEMINISTS ARE WELCOME. (If anyone is interested in being a child-care provider or in providing play items, please write to me, Janet Fay Peak, U.C. Women's Center, University of Cinti., 45221, Mail Location #15.)

* * * * *

SEX! SEX! SEX!

This winter for the first time in the history of the University of Cincinnati, there will be a Lesbian sexuality discussion group in a psychology course entitled "Human Sexuality." The group will be set up for Lesbians taking that course. It would be acceptable to me if other Lesbians not at U.C. wanted to participate. It will be an informal discussion group that I will facilitate. I am very excited and proud of this achievement and want to share the details with my sisters!

Last year when discussion groups were offered by Dr. Allinsmith as a means of talking about feelings around sexuality, I thought, "Ah, I got enough to do as is," but I paid a little more attention when he said participation would mean five extra points on our grade. As I shoved back my general classroom haziness, I heard Allinsmith saying, "Of course we will try to make sure that each

announcements (con't.)

group is about half female and half male." I saw red! After class I went up and told Allinsmith that I thought it was downright hypocritical to call this class human sexuality because it was clear to me that no homosexual feelings were going to be shared in a female/male group. So in accordance with that, I strongly urged the name be changed to human heterosexuality.

Well, he said he had never known such a thing was needed, but he would think about it. By the next class he announced a gay discussion group. He seemed taken aback when I wasn't pleased with this, but I was finally able to explain to him that I felt no more inclined to discuss my sexuality with gay men than any other men.

Getting his co-operation was the easy part; now where would we get a Lesbian who would be willing to be a T.A. (teacher's assistant) and lead this group? There was none to be found. This year I took the T.A. Practicum that would qualify me for this position. This winter quarter, I will be the first and only Lesbian T.A.; but I hope by the end of this quarter there are at least two or more who will be willing to be T.A.'s next year. Because of the social problems many of us have in being identified as Lesbians, I have made careful arrangements that no woman will be identified as having participated in this group. Not even the room number, where the discussions will be taking place, will be known to any but those who are in the group.

If you would like to talk to me about being in the group, please call. My name is Janet Fay Peak, and I can be reached by calling: Lesbian Activist Bureau (ask for Ruthanne Roller), 381-6003; Women's Studies (ask for Carol Blum), 475-6778; or the Women's Center, 475-3967. Leave a name and number where I can reach you.

Hey, we can do it! Each in our own way is doing it! I would love it if some of the rest of y'all would share some of what you're doing.

Janet Fay

* * * * *

LEGISLATION

VICTORIES !!!!!

California introduced what was the toughest anti-gay measure in the country at its November election. The aim was to "rid" schools of lesbian/gay staff members. State Sen. John Briggs played the role of Anita in this production. Voters defeated the Briggs Initiative (also known as Proposition Six).

Seattle was also the battleground for our rights. Initiative 13 was defeated by over 64% of the voters (good goin', Seattle Sisters!) and certainly will serve as a deterrent for the national anti-gay campaign, which until last month was building momentum (Dade County, St. Paul, Wichita and Eugene).

Speaking of good ole Dade County, well yes, we did lose there again - BUT, the percentage of voters for the anti-gay legislation was DOWN several points. We'll win yet, Anita - right there in your back yard!

We have other victories to report. Legislatures reneging on their alleged "commitment" to the ERA are paying for their breached

announcements (con't.)

promises with lost elections.

In the Florida September 12th primary, pro-ERA candidate Bob McKnight defeated incumbent Sen. Ralph Abston, one of the turn-coats in the infamous senate vote on the ERA in Florida. Also defeated were anti-ERA incumbents Sen. Wm. Zinnhil and Dennis MacDonald, by Ken Jenne and Mary Grizzle, respectively.

In other state primaries, pro-ERA Jim Kosinski beat Sen. Margie Foote in Nevada and ALL of Missouri's pro-ERA House and Senate candidates WON.

Our electoral support - and its withdrawal - are obviously very powerful! Good work, voters!

CALENDAR

December 22 (Friday) - Winter Solstice celebration and potluck. 7 p.m. at phebe's. RSVP only. Call 381-8556 or 721-2797.

Feminist Congress of Greater Cincinnati will hold a public meeting at 7 p.m. at the Women's City Club.

December 26 (Tuesday) - Meeting for hard-core DINAH fanatics! Meet at 7 p.m. at Holly's to review this issue and discuss new business. (For directions, call 281-2437).

December 31 (Sunday) - Concert in Indianapolis with Therese Edell and Betsy Lippitt. 9:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m. Woman-only New Year's Eve concert with dance following. Cathedral High School cafeteria, 5225 East 56th Street. See announcement elsewhere in this issue for details.

January 4, 11, & 25 - Lesbian Activist Bureau coffees. YWCA, 9th & Walnut, (Thursdays) 4th floor, 7:30 p.m.

January 17 (Wed.) - An Evening of Wymyn's Films. Dinner preceding. Call Grailville for more details. (also see announcement)

January 18 (Thurs.) - LAB Business Meeting. YWCA, 4th floor, 7:30 p.m.

January 20 (Sat.) -- Feminist Workshop at Univ. of Cinti. Women's Center. 12:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. See article elsewhere in DINAH.

Dinah Readers:

Since Dinah has been under new leadership, we have been trying to decide upon the best direction she should take. We have experimented with different topics and features. But there is no way we can tell what's best for Dinah without some feedback from you, our readers. Please write to us. What did you like best in past Dinahs? What did you dislike? What would you like to see more of, or less of? We need your comments, good and bad. We want Dinah to delight, inform, and support you. Remember our new address: Lesbian Activist Bureau, Inc., P.O. Box 1485, Cincinnati, Ohio 45201. Dinah's mailbox is open and anxiously awaiting your letters.

The Editors

LOVER INJURED

(thoughts and fears)

Delta Flight 527 was to land in five minutes. Suddenly my name burst forth on the loud speaker. At the counter I was handed the phone.

"Ruthanne's been in a car accident. She's okay. Ellen and Donna have gone to get her. They'll be home in 45 minutes."

"I'll call you back when I get to my mother's. Thanks for calling, Mary."

LATER

"hello, honey, are you okay? Why haven't you gone to the hospital? Have Ellen and Mary take you. I'll be there in four hours. I love you, Ruthanne."

ON THE ROAD

Rain drizzled for 200 miles. Scenes of smashing iron and broken bones filled my head.

Should I call her parents? No, not yet, not yet. I needed to get there. She needed me.

ARRIVAL

"Oh, Ellen, where's Ruthanne?"

"Rar's at the hospital. She and Mary should be home soon. It looks as though she has a broken leg."

"She's been walking around on a broken leg!?" Why didn't the cops take her to the hospital?"

"Caryl, I think she's in shock and didn't realize that she was hurt."

"No insurance, that's why."

REUNION

"honey, oh honey, are you okay?" Tears burst forth, I see the pain. She's still in shock.

"It's okay, you'll be okay. Fuck the car." I encircled her with my arms and love.

NEXT DAY

She notifies her parents. Several hours later they unexpectedly arrive on the scene to take her home with them. Tensions run high. Rar talks them out of it. I see Rar and I balancing on a precipice hoping the wind won't push us off.

I think, "Thank the Goddess, Rar isn't unconscious."

AT THE DOCTOR'S

We wait several hours. The office is jammed with people. I want to touch Rar, comfort her. I stay a distance.

Inside the office the doctor begins resetting the leg. I hold Rar. She screams silently into my heart.

I think, "If they know we are lesbians, Ruthanne may not get the proper treatment."

I find myself getting paranoid. I'm worried about Rar. I shrink at the idea that the doctor's attitude toward homosexuality could make a difference in his treatment of Rar. I don't like the dependency I feel. I'm angry that all I can do is hope he doesn't guess. I feel the vulnerability of the situation and I know that in another circumstance it could be the basis for life or death.

Ruthanne's leg is set. He's very personable. Everything is okayhe doesn't know. I'm convinced he's done a good job.

As we ride down the elevator hatred rushes over me. First hatred

Lover, Injured, cont.

for myself and then rejecting that, rechanneling the hatred toward the position my people are put in-our no-win situation, the power of society to make us feel less than human, the power of society to rationalize their cruel and unjust attitudes into "positive philo-religious traditions," the helplessness of a lover when important decisions must be made (and legal sanctions can be used against her right to make those decisions) and, finally, hatred toward non-lesbians and the prick power house of injustice.

That night we go home and hold each other in bed. The silence is unbroken and finally, sleep overcomes the quiet room.

WOLF

Footnote: Many thanks to Ellen, Mary and Donna for coming to our aid on that terrible night.

Dinah T-Shirts

My nose froze to the zipper of my parka, the strap of my "idiot" mitten broke, I lost my left Holly Hobby Glove, and I can't find my leggins. I am being warmed by air filtered through fur because my kitty won't get off the heater vent. The birds have flown south except for 26 starlings that plan to winter with me in the attic. My carpet will never be the same after I played "Dorothy Hamil" and did a figure 8 with my new pompom ice skates. It's hard to be a quarter of a century from my childhood and still desire a poodle skating skirt. But where has this madness come from? It's winter! The grey blahs! So, one must find happiness in little things, a good dirty book, soup made by Aunt Clara with alphabet noodles. The thrill of making it home without sliding into a bridge abutment. Slipping into warm fuzzy slippers and (you knew it was coming) a Dinah T-shirt to hug and wear. WOW! Under your woolies you can wear a bit of sunshine. If your jammies are broken, wear Dinah to bed--she can be very exciting. You'll never get lost in the snow, even though the shirt is white. St. Bernard's can see the lavender Dinah for miles, even in the deepest drifts. So, why not put a smile on your frozen lips and give Dinah a home?

She can arrive at your home in small, medium, large and ex-large for \$5.75 (mail order) or \$5 at the coffees on Thurs. at the YWCA. Mail your order to IAB, P.O. Box 1485, Cincinnati, Ohio 45201. And remember, do not swallow too many snowflakes-you may freeze your Dinah T-shirt!

DID YOU KNOW . . .

Anita Bryant has founded a new organization called "Anita Bryant Ministries." Says Anita in her latest newsletter: "I don't hate homosexuals. But as a mother, I must protect my children from their evil influence. They want to recruit our school children under the protection of the laws of our land!"

Dear Wimin of the Dinah Community,

Two and one-half years ago, my beloved friend and I tried to open up our relationship. She fell in love with someone else and we both thought it would be only right for her to pursue that experience. I realized soon that it was over for us, and I survived those nights alone by writing. When it got to be too much, Sandie and Pat from Cleveland threw out the life-lines. Here are some of the words I've put around the experience. Many of us go through similar feelings and, of course, only the creative ear of the reader can flesh it out. Maybe some of us going through it now will feel less alone.

- 10-24-76 Coming apart. I have no one to talk to. No role model or help. I should write it. It's happening to other wimin too.
- 11-1-76 Consciousness is the difference between habit and ritual.
- 11-11-76 Competition is the thread with which the fabric of society--culture--is woven. We are so used to earning acceptance, earning our way, earning recognition, that we see value only in context. This value in context is what I mean by competition. Its opposite is intrinsic value--value inherent in humanness.
- 11-14-76 I realized as I looked at my mother that she endured too long. While waiting to live her life, she got old.
- 11-15-76 It's like death.
- 12-4-76 When you sleep alone, you listen to your own heart beat.
- 1-16-77 Denial of reality. She lies to me. Can it be true that society and persons steeped in society's ways deny wimin's reality by their propaganda words? Isn't verbal denial of her reality every woman's experience? Tolsty does a brilliant job of depicting it in Anna Karenina when Alexy decides what to do about their marriage. In America, I think it's the same only perhaps less thought out--but none the less brutal.

- 1-24-77 "Being close and not touching is like eating and not swallowing." Roots. I have to stop seeing her.
- 1-28-77 You can't control me. I'm not afraid to be alone.
- 2-21-77 At Marietta. (A weekend to be alone and work on our relationship) It's the contrasts which are the essence of grief. Closeness turned to loneliness, intimacy now space. Wasted sun on the bed. Joy of our past, now an embarrassment to both of us.
- 6-6-77 A lesbian suckles one who is essentially herself and denies the breast of life to The Man.
- 7-25-77 To go beyond your roots, to throw away something valuable, first you must define it as common and of no or little value--you must reduce a person before you can cast her aside as trash. True with stereotypes, true in relationships.
- If you can reduce them to parts (thereby denying the essence) you can be free of them and their influence. What they've helped you to become is after all you now.
- By demanding little I've been reduced, but in a way it's like a costume--traveling incognito until there's enough intimacy to remove the disguise.
- You can demand a semblance of respect or you can wait to see if it's ever given freely because it's so real.
- 7-27-77 The greatest disappointment can come from the small slight-knowing that you are forgotten--not worth remembering.
- 9-26-77 Potential is where you see it. The choice is where you look.
- 11-27-77 Our equality is finished. Guilt beat us like it has beat so many women. We both know I see it and that means I'll have to go.

Space: The Final Frontier March 1978

- 4-23-78 Sunday. Passed my new home and saw an omen-one dove on the roof. They mate for life. This one was alone.

7-30-78 It's the breast I miss. When I think of what we had, mostly I miss that joy of mothering and being mothered by a "womon-same as me" as the sign language puts it for "sister".

And I live the poet's life--trying for words to express this void.

She set me adrift in a tiny boat--pushed me away til the waves began ever-inching me out to sea. And she watched the whole time from the shore.

Now I'm alone--past her horizon. When she saw I was going, she was too scared to swim and I'm gone.

And the waves of my freedom and One-ness wash over me in warm salt water. I'm afraid, but I'm joyous and peaceful.

WORD IS OUT

The San Francisco Chronicle in its review of Word Is Out states, "Without preaching or employing political rhetoric, 26 gay men and women tell their sometimes sad, often funny, and almost always touching stories. It speaks not only to the homosexual, but to all of us who have experienced the pain of being different; which is to say, all of us."

Word Is Out is based on the award-winning documentary film about 26 gay men and women and was written by Nancy Adair and Casey Adair (Mother and Daughter). \$7.95. New Glide Publications/Delacorte Press hardcover, \$14.95.

YES!!! I like having DINAH come to my house every month. She is one of my favorite visitors. Here is my donation; please keep her coming!

Mail to: _____ \$3 () Regular

_____ \$5 () Supporting
Don't forget your zip code

_____ \$10 () Contributing

Make checks payable to the Lesbian Activist Bureau or LAB, either one. Thanks.

Lesbian Activist Bureau

PO Box 1485

Cincinnati, OH 45201

LESBIAN MOTHERS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS

At a recent coffee, members of the Lesbian Mother Support Group educated the lesbian community on some of their problems and needs. A list of volunteer sitters was one of the results of that meeting. One woman shared some of her experiences as daughter of a lesbian couple, providing some interesting insights.

The film, "In the Best Interests of the Children," that had been planned for that night, unfortunately never arrived in the mail. The lesbians present made the best of the situation and had one of the first dialogues locally among lesbian mothers and non-mothers.

If you are interested in joining the Lesbian Mother Support Group (you need not be a lesbian mother) or in volunteering time to spend with a child of a lesbian mother, call Dee, 961-5934, or Gini, 771-6004.

The following list of suggestions on "How to Be Supportive of Lesbian Mothers" is from the newsletter LESBIANFORMED. It was written by Pat Rouse and D. J. Munro. (Thanks to Dee for the info.)

1. When you extend social invitations to a mother, be clear about whether or not children are welcome.
2. Include children as often as possible when you socialize.
3. When you invite a mother to a social event, share responsibility for finding childcare.
4. Financially adopt a child for a social event (admission, food, etc.).
5. If you want to see a mother, go to her house.
6. Provide company for trips to laundromat or grocery store (a mother may be choosing between her social life and what she has to do).
7. Have some toys on hand at your home so mothers and children might feel welcome there.
8. Don't assume that if a mother isn't helping you plan an activity, she doesn't want to be involved.
9. Don't assume that the mother has energy to raise your consciousness of her needs and her children.
10. When planning meetings, consider play space for the children and supervised child care.
11. Be very clear as a group about whether male children are welcome at your group's activity to prevent difficulty should an individual woman ask a male child to come.
12. Don't vaguely say you would be happy to care for the child "sometime" if you are already overextended.
13. Do babysit at the child's house instead of your own house.
14. Offer to babysit when you are free to give the mother some unexpected free time.
15. Take a child for a day (and your lady friend, too!). You'll have a good time.
16. Offer to do a mother's housecleaning, laundry, grocery shopping, car maintenance, etc.
17. Provide transportation.
18. Remember the children you know when you hear about hand-me-downs or when shopping the second hand stores or sales. (That frees the mother's time and money for other things.)

"WOMEN & MYTH: THE EMERGING MATRIARCHY"

"Whatever the mind thinks, the feet
will soon follow..."

-- Z. Budapest in

"Woman, Ritual & Religion."

On the morning of Saturday, December 2, my mind was on winmin's spirituality (as usual) -- so my feet took me to an event at the University of Cincinnati called "Women & Myth: The Emerging Matriarchy." Sponsored by the Office of Women's Studies and Pro Feminas, the presentation included a videotape, reading, and discussion.

The videotape, "Women, Ritual and Religion," included interviews with Naomi Goldenberg, Carol Christ, and Z. Budapest, and a poetry reading by Marge Piercy.

Naomi Goldenberg, professor of religion at Central Michigan University, spoke of how Judaism excludes women from a significant role in that religion. Carol Christ, professor of religion at Columbia University, criticized the Christian tradition and said that she believed reforming the Church doesn't go far enough. Z. Budapest, a High Priestess of Dianic witchcraft, described a "self-blessing ritual" that is a part of her religious tradition. Marge Piercy, poet and novelist, read her poem entitled "Athena in the Front Lines."

The director of the videotape, Gloria Kaufman, raised the question of whether societies go to war when their religions are patriarchal. Do women give birth; do men destroy life? The womanspirit movement teaches women that their bodies are natural, beautiful, strong, and divine, unlike Judeo-Christian religions: Judaism considers woman's body unclean; Christianity calls woman's body the vessel of Satan. What changes, Gloria asks, are needed to bring about a life-oriented society? Goddess worship has some important answers for war and ecology on this Mother Earth.

The second part of the program included a reading and discussion. Carol Lacque, English professor at UC's Raymond Walters campus, read a chapter from a book she is writing connecting women to myths and fairy tales. She wonders where the missing mother is in most fairy tales. Often, there is a wicked step-mother, a grandmother, a princess, and a (stereotyped) witch or fairy godmother. But there is a separation of the daughter from her mother. She compares this to the myth of Demeter and Persephone, where Persephone gets abducted by the lord of the underworld. "Rape becomes a metaphor and initiation to Hell," Carol proposed. This act of traveling underground "mimics burial and transformation."

The familiar dragon in fairy tales was originally a positive representation of the Mother. The Prince as dragon-slayer murders the Mother and claims the Daughter as property. This is "a direct inversion of the Demeter and Persephone myth," informed Carol. "The prince becomes hero of the kingdom and gets the power of life and death."

I hadn't ever given much thought to "Little Red Riding Hood." It only proved to me how much like "wolves" most men are and, of course, I identified with Little Red. (Freud would have something to say about this, I'm sure!) But Carol Lacque had discovered much more in her research. The daughter is leaving her mother for a "quest" to travel to grandma's house. It seems to be a willing separation, unlike Demeter and Persephone. In some versions, Little Red Riding Hood races the wolf against the illness of her grandmother. Little Red is

(continued)

bringing "nourishment" to her mother's mother ("the Source of her Source"). The story usually ends with the wolf eating both the grandmother and Little Red Riding Hood. "With her own mother gone, Little Red Riding Hood is next in line to die," and thus comes face to face with her mortality in her "journey through life."

I was fascinated with all Carol had uncovered in her research of myths and fairy tales. The discussion afterward showed that others, too, had been stimulated by her presentation.

phebe alias karen beiser

00000000000000000000 THE CASSANDRA CIRCLE 00000000000000000000
(from Mitylene, capital of Lesbos)

For our new readers: This is a "cornycopia" page -- a "corny" "coping" of problems in the "Dear Abby" style. Please send your real or imagined problems to: DEAR CASSANDRA c/o LAB, P.O. Box 1485, Cinti OH 45201.

DEAR CASSANDRA,

When I went to the Michigan Music Festival I first thought that only the large-breasted womyn were baring themselves. I soon realized that the majority of womyn have breasts big as mountains; my "molehills" just didn't measure up. What can I do between now and the next festival so I won't feel embarrassed?

Frieda Flats

Dear Frieda Flats,

You're only as "big" as you feel. So build up your self-confidence rather than your mammaries before the next music festival. And talking of music, remember it takes both sharps and flats to make harmony.

DEAR CASSANDRA,

Help my desperation! My vibrator blew a fuse, cucumbers are difficult to come by in this cold weather, my niece took home my teddy bear, and I've got a severe case of the shingles so no one will come within six feet of me at the bar. What can I do?

In frustration,
Fantasy Flora

Dear Fantasy Flora,

Be like little Jill Horner who played with her corner ... Remember how the nursery rhyme goes? "She put in her thumb, etc." Or, as the good book says, "Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might ..."

Until next time,
CASSANDRA

COFFEES FOR LESBIANS

Coffees are held every Thursday night at 7:30 at the YWCA downtown, 9th & Walnut Streets, 4th floor. LAB provides the coffee and tea. Feel free to bring cookies, musical instruments, and friends. See you there!

THANKS

45201

OHIO

CINCINNATI

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Dinah

MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE LESBIAN ACTIVIST BUREAU, INC.
JUNE, 1978 SOLSTICE ISSUE

P.O. Box 24257
Cincinnati, OH 45224
513/541-5132

Wendy Winkler, Editor

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

This issue of DINAH is special. Not only is it our first summer solstice quarterly issue but it offers more variety of writers and workers than DINAH has seen before.

Readers may recall that several months ago we made the decision to put out quarterly issues of DINAH, including readers' offerings, during the solstice and equinox months. These were to include features, fiction, reviews and opinion pieces as well as the usual news, humor and features. Readers will also recall that last month your editor wrote an urgent plea for more involvement in the actual mechanics of producing. Happily, both appeals have been met with beautiful response, so much so that we have been unable yet to tap all the resources offered. But we plan to.

We are especially happy to rewelcme the work of Debbie Arapa from Cincinnati and Karen from Indianapolis in this issue. Debbie (a.k.a. Marlena Gardenia) has donated three of her very special, subtle, enlightening and ever humorous offerings. Karen has sent another of her incisive reports--this one about the silent loss of the Bloomington gay rights ordinance. We also welcome our new contributors. We have a special from Gale H. about Gateways Bar in London, a review from Maggie on the movie "A Different Story," a look at what the words of the Bible really mean by LaVerne, a review of the Woody Simmons/ Nancy Vogl concert by Phebe. We have a first hand account of the trials and joys of setting up a feminist press by Chris Straayer, and Janet Fay takes a look at the interfaces between lesbianism and feminism.

Barb and Lynn report on lesbian counseling services being developed in Cincinnati, including groups for lesbian couples and children of lesbian mothers. The We Want the Music Collective presents their plans for organizing the Third Michigan Women's Festival.

We have the usual announcements, calendar, and update on the news. And, of course, your editor has added her usual 2¢ worth.

The Mailbag reemerges this month since we've gotten some really fine letters, and this seems an excellent way to carry on dialog. Letters, however, will be interspersed with other copy to conserve on space in this lo-o-o-ong issue.

Do keep those letters coming in to let us know how you're feeling about what we're doing.

Blessed be!

--Wendy

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C A L E N D A R

June 11 -- Poster making for Lesbian/Gay Pride Day -- Wendy's
 June 12 -- Human Rights Coalition meeting of representatives from
 constituent groups -- Sandie Garsey will represent LAB
 --Witches and Amazons Conference Sharing at Phebe's 8 pm
 June 12-18--Women's Music Festival -- Champagne/Urbanda, Ill.
 June 15 -- Coffee, Women Helping Women, 7:30 p.m.
 June 14--Planning meeting -- Lesbian/Gay Pride Day--Tangeman
 University Center (UC) Rm. 425 7:30 p.m.

- June 22--Dinah meeting and coffee--Women Helping Women--7:30
 June 23--Women's Potluck--3558 Reading (at Lenox) 7-11 p.m.
 * June 24-- LESBIAN/GAY PRIDE DAY--FOUNTAIN SQUARE-- 1-4PM
 July 9--ERA March on Washington
 June 29--Coffee at WHW
 July 6--Coffee--WHW
 July 13--Coffee--WHW
 July 20--LAB meeting and coffee--WHW
 * June 30-July 2--"The Gay/Lesbian Agenda"--Indianapolis
 July 27--Dinah meeting and coffee at WHW
 Aug. 17-20--3rd Michigan Women's Music Festival (?)

!!!! H O T O F F T H E W I R E S !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

CINCINNATI, OHIO--NEW TERRORIST GROUP--

Sandie Garsey would like to form a new group of Lesbian
 Lover Extremists or Lovists to Terrorize the community with
 absurdity, bizarreness, and zealous perversity. In other words,
 fight fire with fire. Anyone interested in being a Lovist must be
 capable of committing indecent acts and be of otherwise suitable
 respectability. Contact Sandie, 751-0557, with an original
 obscene phone call or mail erotic dyke chain letter in and you
 will qualify. This is your opportunity to be a member of an
 extreme radykel senseless group.

by Sandie Garsey

M O R E C A L E N D A R

June 20 & July 19--Full Moon Celebrations at Phebe's

FOOL'S FOOL : To Hell With Cornflakes For Breakfast

Marlena Gardenia

I recently received a communication from my sister and twin harlot, Madonna. She has been keeping company with a woman named Friskie - formerly Friskie the Female Frisbee, you may have seen her on Johnny.

Anyway, Friskie gave Madonna a whirlwind interview and shortly thereafter, they disappeared into Madonna's grotto penthouse, high atop the beautiful Hotel Vista Libido in Paris, New York.

Now Madonna has packed a glass martini rod every since I can remember and she has slept with a roach clip under her pillow for even longer. As well, she has spent much of her adult (reasonably adult) life as a golden western darling, doing what they do best. Doing don'ts.

For awhile Madonna designed clothes. You may remember several seasons ago when everyone was wearing Concensual Clothing/the Complete Peer Group Wardrobe. Madonna's work.

Another of Madonna's past projects was the "How To Tell When Something Happened Calendar". The calendar was plotted with significant dates from the lives of Elvis and John Davidson and sold quite well.

Madonna and I do not ofetn.cross paths but we stay in touch through the magic sacrament marijuana and a basic fascination with bright lights. Stoned, we both go to sky high bars and enjoy the neon panavista that glitters like a lake of light below. Half a world away, I know a woman is smiling back.

Occasionally, she sends me missives like the following;

The need to be in love often passes for the fact.

I probably haven't talked to anyone about anything in years.

When some one tells me they haven't been themself lately I wonder who they are blaming for what.

and this, Look!Is that a planet?

The Calling of Madonna

Marlena Gardenia

The first sign that Madonna needed a break came during a rehearsal of Carmen. Madonna interrupted the second act insisting that she be allowed to play Fudgey and Chocolate Carmen, two sisters she claimed to have discovered by holding the pages up to the light.

Slowly, Madonna confessed that she'd been having a real desire to join the ranks of such noted 20th. century religious zealots as Mrs. Green, a born again Christian and Radclyffe Hall who experienced the stigmata.

I found it necessary to express my concern at this time. I reminded Madonna that it was she who first believed the divine light Mrs. Green experienced was orgasm. Evidently her first. I also reminded Madonna that previous to Carmen, the reason she was doing Carmen anyway, was her own libretto for The Passion of Anita: a mystery fable in half an act. Madonna's next course, the one that brought in the telephone company, was directory resistance.

Hearing voices, Madonna decided to use the telephone for calling around the planet rather than try to follow the voices everywhere.

When she tried explaining the voices to the phone company, the phone company wanted to know if she thought god was talking to her.

Madonna did not think god was trying to talk to her; but frankly, she saw nothing wrong with a son wanting to talk to his mother.

To prove she wasn't schizophrenic, and to get her Easter duty out of the way, Madonna single-handedly, simultaneously re-created the Resurrection tableaux of Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter and the two angels at the open tomb.

The phone company had to agree that no, a crazy person could not do what Madonna had just done.

They released her, all of her, under her own consciousness.

A CANDID MESSAGE (or ultimatum, whichever way you look at it)

from Wendy Winkler

The Lesbian Activist Bureau is two years old. During those two years it has run on the steam of mainly two persons--Sandie Garsey and myself. Others have contributed but the continuity has been on our shoulders.

This can no longer continue. As I stated at the LAB meeting on June 8, other wimmin are going to have to show they care to have LAB by putting energy into functions that maintain her.

It is impossible for an organization to function long or well when one person (myself at present) is carrying out the duties of president, treasurer, archivist, corresponding secretary, speakers bureau, general go-fer, and outside drinking fountain.

How I got myself into this is my own craziness. That I am going to get myself out is a credit to my growing sanity.

Effective September I will continue only three roles--board member, speaker, and mentor to those who want it. Other wimmin are going to have to assume the roles of president, treasurer, newsletter editor, archivist, corresponding secretary, go-fer, and outside drinking fountain.

The Cincinnati community is now on notice. Should this transfer of duties not take place, I will ask the other two Board members to help me fold up shop. There will be no LAB in September if you all out there in lesbian land don't take some responsibility.

What's in it for this community to keep LAB? LAB offers several unique resources. First, it is tax exempt..This means we can receive grant monies. Currently we are developing a proposal to get a full time paid staff person through CETA funding. If we get such a woman, the basic educational work of LAB can go on, and this city will continue to have lesbian concerns brought to their collective attention and consciousness. Secondly, LAB is known.. The community at large is aware of LAB and seeks our input..To scrap LAB would mean to start over, a waste of time twice. LAB is also known to the community of lesbians nationwide, and we are listed in GAIA'S GUIDE and OUR RIGHT TO LOVE.

Thirdly it has been LAB who has brought you DINAH and the coffees. Many of you have gratefully used these and other LAB resources for close on two years, and now LAB needs you to give back. A community of equals contributes each according to her own ability and gifts. You all have such ability and gifts. It is possible to contribute even if you have to remain closeted, which we respect. Please start thinking about what you can contribute and share this with us at the LAB meeting on July 20.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAB COFFEES (otherwise known as T.I.T. or -- Thanks, It's Thursday!) are now being held at Women Helping Women, 4th Floor, YWCA building, 9th and Walnut, downtown Cincinnati, Thursday nights, 7:30 - 10. This arrangement will be kept through Aug. 31. Come September, we will have to decide whether we want to continue at WHW or return to a private home. Many thanks to Caroline, Penny and Diane for their coffee hospitality during April and May. Thanks now to Kim and Leslie who are "hostessing" the coffees at WHW.

MEETINGS OF LAB AND DINAH are being held of Thursday nights at WHW also. The reason is that Thursday night is the only night lesbians seem to have available in common. We plan that the meetings will not interfere with the coffees, since some wimmin feel strongly about the social nature of the coffees. But since WHW has so much space, we don't foresee a problem with having two simultaneous activities going on at once. If it becomes a problem, we'll deal with it. In the meantime, let's be sensitive to the social aspects of the coffees and save the organizational/political discussions for the meetings. On the other hand, as is stated elsewhere, there is also a great need for wimmin to become sensitive to the organizational needs of LAB if LAB is to survive.

LAB MEETINGS are scheduled for the 3rd Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be on July 20 at WHW (June meeting was on June 8.) The LAB meeting is also the deadline for DINAH copy.

DINAH MEETINGS are scheduled for the 4th Thursday of each month. Next meeting will be June 22 at WHW. All wimmin who have volunteered to work on DINAH are urged to come.

LESBIAN/GAY PRIDE DAY will be held on Fountain Square, June 24 (Sat.) from 1 to 4 p.m. The theme will be celebration of our revived coalescence and activism. Mayor Springer has been invited to speak and declare the day lesbian/gay pride day. Wendy Winkler of LAB and Howard Gaass of MCC will also speak. There will be information tables, music, posters, banners and an award ceremony to recognize the contributions of lesbians and gay men to the growth and pride of our respective communities in the last decade.

WE NEED YOU, YOUR FAMILIES, AND YOUR FRIENDS, GAY OR STRAIGHT, THERE. IF NECESSARY, COME DISGUISED OR MASKED OR WITH A PAPER SACK OVER YOUR HEAD OR EVEN JUST IN THE CLOSET. BUT DO COME.

(Thanks to Sandie Garsey of LAB who had the foresight to reserve the Square back in March before anyone might try to block it.)

THE GAY/LESBIAN AGENDA, 1978 mid-west gay/lesbian awareness conference will be held June 20-July 2 at Cavanaugh Hall, Michigan Street campus of IUPUI, Indianapolis. Child care is free. Registration is \$8.00 in advance, \$1.00 at the conference. Registration will be limited to 500 persons. Brochures available at LAB coffees. More information also available from the Indianapolis Coalition for Human Rights, P.O. Box 20124, Indianapolis, IN 46220.

THE THIRD MICHIGAN WOMEN'S FESTIVAL is scheduled for the end of August. LAB has not yet received official information, but rumor has it that it will be the weekend of the 17th through 20th. More specific information will be shared as it is received. This outside festival is well worth the time and energy of any woman who has not experienced an all-woman environment (or who wishes to experience it again) and who can sustain the rigors of primitive camping for four days. Food, first aid, child care, and other services are available. (See elsewhere in DINAH for letter from the festival organizers.)

THE MAY, 1978, DINAH did not materialize. It missed you; you didn't miss it. The reason was that other demands on your editor--to speak, to write statements, to consult, give advice, lead meetings, and so on directly conflicted with DINAH time. Therefore I made the decision to defer to this June issue. The new trend for more widespread participation should make these "either/or" decisions extinct soon.

DINAH THANKS all the wimmin who contributed to this issue--Phebe, Vicki, Joan, Maggie, Debbie A., LaVerne, Janet, Mary, Ellen, Dee, Barb, Lynn, Karen, Gale, and Wendy. It may yet be scattered, but DINAH is on her way to becoming a community produced newsletter.

DINAH as a name for this publication may be phased out in deference to the wishes of her founder, Sandie Garsey. For the next several issues, we will experiment with other names. Readers are welcome to share their ideas with us.

LAB SALUTES Lilli Sprintz for all her hard work in community organizing in the past two months and for the special courage she exhibited in becoming another visible spokeswoman to the community at large. Lilli spoke both to City Council and before TV cameras with a dignity that prompted pride in the hearts of lesbians and gay men who heard her.

Also visible to the larger straight community were Debbie Arapa and Wendy Winkler through their prominent interview in the Cincinnati Sunday Enquirer. In addition Debbie gave over 40 presentations to classes at U.C. during the spring quarter. Debbie has been quietly performing this community service for over five years. Hopefully a future issue of DINAH will include her sharings from this experience.

The Cincinnati Lesbian/Gay Community is an emergent group that has resulted from the activities of April. As an emergent group it has not honed in on a set role or purpose other than to raise funds for the defense of the men who were busted in the parks. One of its main values has seemed to be the coalescence of gay men in large numbers (200+) in an activist arena. The group has been making attempts to bring the lesbian and gay male communities closer together. From the lesbian point of view, this is still an uphill battle due mainly to the ongoing ignorance of so many gay men of their blatant and constant sexist behavior. On the other hand, it seems many lesbians have not dealt with their stereotypes of gay men either. We predict a struggle will have to precede any kind of lasting coalescence.



FULL MOON CELEBRATIONS

"A new kind of trust is the most important contribution woman's spirituality has to give to the woman's movement. We learned we can trust our bodies when we learned we had the right to control them. We are learning we can trust our souls through learning that our right to have them is rooted in our recognition of the Goddess, of the female principle within the universe and ourselves."

--Z. Budapest, The Feminist Book of Lights & Shadows

Women have always had a connection with the Moon. One of the times when our connection is deepest, and our psychic powers strongest, is during the time of the Full Moon.

Some Cincinnati area lesbians took part in celebrations of the Spring Equinox locally. Some of us would like to get together on a regular basis to explore our spirituality. This could take the form of any, or all, of the following: discussion, meditation, astrology, tarot, sharing dreams, sharing psychic experiences, sharing knowledge of these things, and creating rituals. Joan and I are offering our new apartment as a gathering place. Any lesbians drawn to this type of group (no matter how much you feel you do or do not know) are welcome to join in on any, or all, of the Full Moon Celebrations.

Please note:

- 1/ Bring something to eat or drink. We will share in a feast after the discussion and/or ritual.
- 2/ If it feels comfortable to you, bring something special to you to share with the group (e.g. a poem, a picture or a piece of jewelry).

Come to learn and re-energize by sharing with your sisters!

DATES OF FULL MOON CELEBRATIONS:

Tuesday, June 20 (The Eve of Summer Solstice)

Wednesday, July 19

***** There will not be one for August -- See you at the Michigan Women's Music Festival!?

All to begin promptly at 8:30 p.m.

The address is 59 Graham Street, Apt. 1. (Graham runs off of Ohio Ave. in Clifton and is located directly across from Bellevue Hill Park.) If you have any questions or suggestions, call

phebe 381-8556

or

joan 651-1509

In the next issue of DINAH---a report on the Witches and Amazons Conference held June 3, 1978 in South Bend, Indiana.

MARCH FOR THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT, Sunday, July 9, Washington, D.C. National NOW is sponsoring the biggest women's march since the suffragists marched tens of thousands strong in the early part of this century. The march will take place on the first anniversary of the death of Alice Paul, the only women's rights advocate to span the first and second feminist movements and the woman who wrote the first version of the Equal Rights Amendment and made sure it was introduced into each session of Congress for 50 years before modern feminists took up the cause.

CINCINNATI NOW is chartering buses to take women to this herstorical happening. The round trip cost is \$35. Buses leave Saturday, July 8 at 7:30 p.m. from the Greyhound Bus Terminal on Gilbert Avenue. Or you can be picked up at the Kenwood Mall (Shillito's) at 8 p.m. Wear white to emulate the suffragists and bring an American flag or a tricolored sash. Marchers will assemble at the Washington monument at 11 am on July 9. Rally to end at 6 p.m.

Send check by July 1 to Cincinnati NOW c/o Penny Smith, Treasurer, 2148 Clifton Ave., 45219. Indicate preference for Smokers' or non-Smokers' bus. If you can afford more, it can be contributed to the fund for those who otherwise can't go. If you can't go, contributions will be welcomed.

THIS MARCH PROMISES TO BE THE MOST EXCITING WOMEN'S MARCH OF OUR GENERATION. LAB URGES ANY WOMAN WHO CAN TO PARTICIPATE.

DINAH is sorry to see the demise of Metro Gay News, our neighbor to the north in Detroit. MGN, a monthly newspaper, suffered from too few resources--financial and human. The loss is a loss for everyone because in our isolation as gay people we need every avenue of communication we can sustain. DINAH salutes the work of MGN over the past two years and hopes that Detroit will find ways to carry on the service rendered by that paper. MGN subscribers will remain confidential. They are being asked whether they want to receive another midwest newspaper.

Dear Wendy,

Enclosed please find a check for ten dollars. Your issues of DINAH are fine. Sorry you can't spare some reinforcements.

I called Del Martin to read her what you wrote. If you haven't already, please send her a copy of the April issue.

I agree with the comment in your March 4 letter to me, "The good fight has to be undertaken everywhere." Right on!

In Sisterhood,

Elida / San Francisco

Dear Wendy, Here are some articles of interest plus our leaflet on the big ERA March. Enclosed, too, is my \$5 for more "Dinah."

In Sisterhood,

Kathy Helmbock

President/ Cincinnati NOW

CINCINNATI COMES ALIVE

April and May were lively months. They began with the crack-down by police in the parks. Last count was 78 men arrested for alleged soliciting. (One cop later told a LAB member, "I don't understand. Most of those guys are straight.") The months continued with crackdowns on the bars, threats against lives and jobs, obscene phone calls, the usual.

They concluded having seen an organizing of the lesbian and gay communities in Cincinnati, the likes of which this city has not seen for a long time.

"Not in Cincinnati" has been the watchword here for years. Cincinnati is "too conservative, too straight laced, too repressive." "Not in Cincinnati" is an outdated phrase. Several years of behind the scenes organizing are taking hold for the lesbian and gay communities.

The media ban on lesbian and gay news has lifted, if temporarily, because of the "newsworthiness" of the arrests coupled with the proposed human rights ordinance. Particularly the ongoing debate in the arch conservative newspaper, the Cincinnati Enquirer, has exposed straight Cincinnatians to lesbian and gay spokespersons as never before. Other news media--TV and radio stations and the weekly Cincinnati Reporter have been responsibly exploring our communities as well. An exception is the evening newspaper, the semi-liberal Cincinnati Post, which has been conspicuous in ducking the controversy and reporting the news very lightly.

Nor have the city's black newspapers responded, reflecting the black community's general homophobia as well as their reluctance to speak out on issues not directly related to racism and poverty.

Unfortunately, one of the black city councilmembers, J. Kenneth Blackwell, has taken a stand against the City's proposed human rights ordinance. Blackwell's major arguments are as homophobic and ignorant as it is possible to be. They are encapsulated in the following sentences taken from his position paper on gay rights:

"First the homosexual lifestyle is inherently antithetic to the perpetuation of our society, and I do not believe that encouragement of this lifestyle is in our collective interest. Second, homosexuality is a matter of human behavior, not of human condition immutably determined at the moment of conception."

(TO THE READER FOR PRACTICE: In about 100 words each, refute each statement. Mail to LAB, P.O. Box 24257, Cincinnati 45224. The five best arguments will be printed in DINAH.)

On April 26, lesbians, gay men, and straight allies picketed City Council over the arrests in the parks. The following testimony was written by Wendy Winkler and presented by Lilli Sprintz in City Council chambers. The statement is reprinted here because many who heard it have requested copies and because it uses the kind of language legislative bodies listen to. As such, we hope it will help others to draw up their own educational statements.

LAB'S TESTIMONY TO CINCINNATI CITY COUNCIL, April 26, 1978

Mr. Mayor, Mr. Vice-Mayor, and members of City Council:

We are addressing you today as your constituents seeking redress from destructive forms of discrimination detected against us. We are addressing you from our position as taxpayers and citizens of this fine City who care about her preservation and growth. We are addressing you as our elected officials whose current misconceptions about our community are blocking you from granting us our equal share of justice.

For example, Mr. Vice Mayor, the homosexual population of the world has held steady at about 10% since civilizations have been studied. C. A. Tripp, PhD., in the book The Homosexual Matrix documents from civilization to civilization that fertility and reproduction have flourished most in societies which have had free and open attitudes about homosexuality and least in societies with repressive attitudes about homosexuality. Racial genocide or decline has never been the result of homosexuality. Rather it has been the result of mass murders, enslavements, and oppression by other heterosexuals in power who have had different skin pigmentation, language, religion, nationality or cultural heritage from the victim group.

Currently there is a phenomenon in the land called the referendum which is bringing the question of the civil rights of lesbian and gay people to the voting public. That the vote against us is running only 2 to 1 instead of 9 to 1, our population ratio, is a credit to the increasing numbers of heterosexual persons who are taking time to educate themselves about homophobia and finding that, like racism, it is shot through with lies and distortions. However, having the majority vote on the rights of the minority is not the American way. Had the English voted on the rights of the colonies, we would all be English citizens today. Had the majority in this country voted on integration of schools in 1954, "separate but equal," a euphemism for severe apartheid of the races, would still be the law of the land today.

The fact is that minorities always initially need the courage of public officials to stand up and declare that the minority also is entitled to the most basic of human rights--a roof and a job. The mayor of St. Paul has taken just such a public stand following the voter repeal of St. Paul's 4-year old gay rights ordinance yesterday.

In his column yesterday, Carl Rowan spoke out a warning based on the movie Holocaust. He said Holocaust was neither pro-Jewish nor anti-German in its intent. He said the movie rather "is a call to all of us to never forget the horrors that can result when a society permits, or pretends not to see, the first oppression, the initial persecution, of any people. It is a reminder that this whole planet, and its freedoms, are diminished when any of us fails to stand up the moment that bigotry shows its gruesome face."

What the lesbian and gay communities are asking of you is simple. We are asking you to stand up against bigotry. Stop the crackdowns in the parks. The men are pleading no contest, not because they committed any crime, but because they cannot afford exposure of their identities in a city where they have no civil rights protection. The police are guilty of false arrest. Stop them. They

In Observation of
National Gay Pride Week June 18-24
Cincinnati Celebrates

LESBIAN/GAY PRIDE DAY On FOUNTAIN SQUARE

Saturday June 24
With Keynote Speeches at 2pm

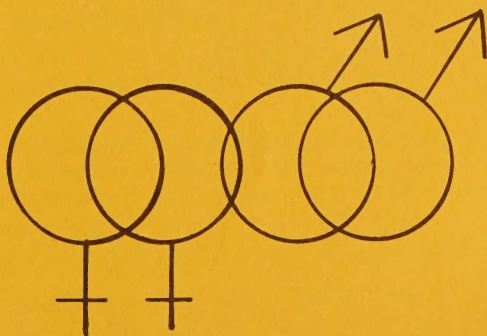
Come out - Support Yourself

Rally with us from 1-4 pm

Live music, Speakers, Singing, Awards, Displays

In co-operation with Lesbian Activist Bureau Inc.
And Cincinnati Lesbian/Gay Community

For more information call Gayline 241-0000



LAB'S TESTIMONY (continued)

report to you. Let the Board of Health go about its business of inspecting gay bars for sanitation, but let it do it in a timely fashion, not related to the same weekend as the police arrests in the parks. Take a stand publicly against the harassing and threatening phone calls, the destruction of personal property, the throwing of eggs and corrosives, the hundreds of other cruel harassments undertaken against lesbian and gay citizens for no reasons other than bigotry.

We would like also to speak for the rights of heterosexuals. Heterosexuals have the right to grow up without being taught lies. Heterosexuals have the right to grow up without learning to live in false fear. Heterosexuals have the right to grow up free of the poison of bigotry.

There has to be a generation to say halt to all the nonsensical and destructive lies that are taught about people whether they be black, female, old Jewish, appalacian, gay, handicapped, poor, noneducated or whatever other false standard is used to draw the line between fairness and discrimination. We would like to be part of the generation that says enough to all that. We would like to be part of the generation that decides we are all truly human, that together we make up a great kaleidoscope of humanity, and that our best survival lies in cooperation rather than competition. We have scarce resources only if we continue to savagely compete, not if we cooperate.

The lesbian and gay communities of Cincinnati call on you to protect us as we elected you to do. We call on you to take a stand for the rights of all people, including gays, by voting positively on the proposed human rights ordinance. You have been elected as leaders to uphold the rights of all citizens. You have all promised under oath to do that. The most basic of these rights is access without discrimination to housing, jobs, and public accommodations.

Thank you.

WW

* * * * *

Dear Dinah,

I just read your April issue.

Great!!! --Just what I needed to cheer me up on this gloomy Sunday in London (winter persists here.)

The last time I saw my name in print was when I got into the finals for the Pacific Coast tennis championships-- (junior)--the year was 1947.

And talking about sabotage (as I did in that letter to you) U.S. Customs knicked my February shipment to the states and I lost a FORTUNE.--But am recouping and will henceforth have GAIA'S GUIDE printed in the U.S.

And thanks for the information on the Cincinnati scene.

I really do enjoy Dinah (especially this issue) and enclose my check in the amount of \$10.00 to assist with your very fine work and remain

Yours sincerely,

Sandy R. Horn/ London, Eng.

Dear Sandy--You're rapidly becoming a favorite correspondent--Wendy

GATEWAYS BAR, LONDON

My copy of Gaia's Guide advertises Gateways Bar in London, England as "the oldest and most famous club of its kind in the world". The little blue book also states that Gateways is a must for the lesbian tourist in London. Needless to say, that was all the encouragement my lover and I required on our recent trip to London. Gaia's Guide indicated that all we needed to do was telephone Gateways, tell them we were Americans and then go to the bar with our passports. (Gateways is a private club and membership is restricted.) We followed this simple procedure and found ourselves in the bar on a Wednesday night.

Gateways is a small club which is located in the fashionable Chelsea section of London. The entrance to the bar is on a side street and one has to descend a flight of steps and pay one pound (about \$2) before entering the premises. My only previous knowledge of Gateways was provided by a rather dismal British film on lesbians entitled The Killing of Sister George which came out in the late 60's. Most of the film was not memorable but the scenes which were supposedly filmed in Gateways were. I anticipated a large, glamorous bar filled with sleek, super sophisticated, aloof British lesbians. What we found was a small, modest bar filled with very interesting and attractive women, mostly professional types. Everyone was dressed very casually; some were dancing to the jukebox but most were standing, talking in groups of various sizes. As the evening wore on, the bar became literally jammed full of women.

My lover and I figured that since we all spoke the same language, we might as well introduce ourselves to someone and learn how our British sisters live. We began a conversation with a couple of women and immediately felt welcome and at home. We learned that Gateways is the only club in London exclusively for women. Our new British friends commented enviously on all the bars, clubs and organizations for women in the United States. They told us about England's equivalent to Anita Bryant, a woman named Mary Whitehall, who is launching campaigns against several Gay publications in England. In short, we had a wonderful time, swapping stories and soaking up those delightful English accents.

Area women who are fortunate enough to travel to England this coming year would do themselves well to stop by Gateways, have a drink and meet their British counterparts. Gale H.

BLOOMINGTON LOSES GAY RIGHTS

Bloomington, Indiana, has been added to the growing list of cities and towns that have lost their gay rights ordinances, but, unlike those in Dade County, and St. Paul, the Bloomington ordinance was not defeated by hysterical fundamentalists.

For the past couple of years, Bloomington, a college town influenced by the relatively enlightened Indiana University community, has had the most extensive human rights ordinance in the state and was the only city to include sexual preference in its ordinance.

Last year, in a court case over a determination made, ironically, by the Bloomington Human Rights Commission in a matter unrelated to sexual preference, the judge ruled that the portion of the state civil rights law creating local human rights commissions granted too much power to the local commissions and was, therefore, invalid. The ruling placed hundreds of pending complaints in limbo because, although the ruling did not immediately abolish the local commissions, their authority to accept and investigate complaints and issue orders was placed in doubt.

Fortunately, the state legislature acted quickly to amend the state civil rights law to restore powers to local human rights commissions. Unfortunately, the new provision does not allow local ordinances to cover any area of discrimination that the state civil rights law does not cover, and the state law does not cover sexual preference.

So, Bloomington's gay rights ordinance was wiped out without a fight, and it is unlikely that effective gay rights ordinances will be restored in Indiana cities unless the conservative state legislature adds sexual preference to the state civil rights law.

.. Karen, Indianapolis, In.

Lesbianism is Feminist

Lesbianism is commonplace, it is the question of male dominance that makes people angry.* Answers are not generally hard to obtain, it is the questions that are of extreme importance and they seem to come few and far between. It is only within the past few years that male dominance has been questioned and it is only within this framework that lesbianism has become a crucial issue.

Feminists are an irritation to men, the oppressor, henceforth referred to as the enemy. Feminists who uphold the idea of lesbianism are an extreme irritation to the enemy. Lesbianism makes the enemy angry. Lesbian-feminists are not only a direct affront to the enemy but have put their total selves into the movement toward a matriarchy.. Lesbian-feminists are a direct threat to the enemy and all who have settled themselves into the patriarchal systems. Feminists have questioned the course, lesbians are barnacles that create a drag on the ship, and lesbian-feminists have blown a hole in the hull of the ship.

The enemy is pragmatic and tries to use all resources to promote and sustain himself. For many eons wimin have been cultivated for their great energy, and since for utmost efficiency all energy must be harnessed, the enemy set about putting restrictions on this womon-energy, so it would be directed only for his benefit. The enemy created laws, mores, etc. which acted as thick walled tunnels to direct womon energy only toward him; then he created an enclosure system, later called marriage, to cut down on the possibility of womon-energy diffusion even futher. This enclosure system gave each man his own energy source for himself and his offspring. The males of his progeny shared his womon-energy until the male child came of age, at which time he was expected to find and enclose his own energy source. The females of his progeny were effective as the trade items which created a strong bond among the enemy, especially since they believed that in-breeding eventually weakened them. The enemy became stronger and the wimin grew weaker because after being wrested from their mothers, they recieved no more womon-energy and were constantly being drained by their recharging duties to the enemy and his progeny.

Sometimes deviations occurred and wimin sought each other and they each grew strong in their own abundant energies. If the enemy found out about such wimins existence they would break-up the unit and sometimes would try to reharness and re-enclose the womon-energy. Often they found the charge from such strengthened wimin was too volatile, so mostly the enemy would ignite such energy before it could draw other womon energy to it.

Through these practices the enemy grew strong and took giant strides in manipulating his environment. Since the energy this took was recharged each evening, the enemy never burned out and each generation made the enemy's power greater. As the years progressed the enemy began to forget where his original source of energy came from and he became so enamoured by his own technological energy that

inattentive of his restrictions on his womon-energy. Thus wimin began to come together and discovered that they were all being drained and with no recognition. They began to advocate for their own rights and the enemy laughed and called them "libbers" and gave them work the enemy no longer wished to attend to. When the "libbers" began to call themselves feminists and demanded equality, the enemy became irritated and put restrictions on the feminists' movement. When the enemy learned of lesbians, who gave all their energy to other wimin, they became angry and thought surely they could cause an end to this by declaring the lesbians disgusting and abnormal.

These disgusting and abnormal wimin became blatant enough to divorce them to be with their wimin, and the enemy declared this outrageous, and took legal action to see that these lesbians could not take their children. The enemy is not stupid and he well knows that children are still the most important commodity he can produce; for it is in their forming that a patriarchal system can be continued. He knows he must teach his sons how to be dominating and his daughters how to submit to domination. If either is allowed to learn that they can be separate and whole entities, then the game is up. Patriarchy will die, and "man-power" will come to a grinding halt.

Some lesbians became feminists and some feminists became lesbians, and so lesbian-feminists not only ignored the enemy, as lesbians had always done, but they actually confronted that enemy and began to fight him on his own ground. These lesbian-feminists, and other feminists who supported them began to fight for their rights to have children. These wimin have begun to form such organizations as "Lesbian Mothers' Defense Fund," and other national defense funds to further their protection while they grow stronger through multi-support groups and better informed through study groups.

The enemy is frightened now as well as angry. In his anger and fright he is striking out violently but as yet haphazardly. Wimin are organizing to better help each other become aware of their oppression. Some wimin have become politically aware and reach out to other wimin to share this awareness. Some wimin gather in groups for sheer support. Some wimin have poured their energies into organizations that reach out to wimin with problems directly caused by the enemy (wife-beating, rape, job discrimination) and with problems caused by trying to grow in an unfavorable climate (alcoholism, drug abuse, food-abuse, suicide, and mental disorientation). How strong wimin become before men get organized in their resistance will determine whether the 21st century will see the end or the continuation of domination by the enemy.

Janet Fay

Sisters--

We just received our exchange copy of the April Dinah and were disappointed not to find Conditions listed under "Other Publications".

We very much want women in the Cincinnati area to know that we exist and hope that you will mention Conditions in a future issue. The third issue of Conditions is now at the printer; we will send it along to you as soon as we can.

In struggle,

Elly Bulkin / for the collective

Dear Elly--Many apologies. Conditions One is so beautiful it is in my permanent library and so got overlooked. Will correct. Wendy

LESBIAN COUNSELING

A counseling service staffed by lesbians for other lesbians is nearing its one year anniversary. This service is based on Transactional Analysis (TA) principles and techniques. TA is one of the most popular and effective counseling approaches used in the United States today.

The women involved in TA hope to expand current services to include: a Couples Group (where women experiencing difficulties within their relationship can work together to resolve them); a Kids Group (for 5 - 12 year olds of lesbian mothers. The kids will receive support and learn new skills to help them live in their often ridiculed and misunderstood situation); a Parents Group (where lesbian mothers and their partners can work together through the complications of raising children and forming a cohesive family unit); and a Social Action Group (for women who have worked through most of their major personal issues and want to use their new communication and relationship skills to effect change within the Cincinnati community. These groups are in addition to the three groups currently in existence, which are open to any woman who wants to understand herself better and to learn new ways of dealing with the areas in her life which are preventing her from reaching her full power and potential.

A typical group follows this format: 1. CONTRACTS--with the entire group (approximately 8 members and 2 co-leaders) assembled; each woman identifies the issue she wants to work on. She and the therapist decide upon a technique to use and both accept responsibility for working toward a successful resolution of the issue. 2. INDIVIDUAL WORK--after each person in the group has established her contract, the therapist works individually with her in the previously agreed upon manner. 3. WRAP-UP--again assembled as a group, each person shares with the others what she accomplished during the evening and how she is feeling about herself compared to her earlier feelings. After group, people often go out together for food or to someone's home to continue developing the ties and good feelings they share.

In addition to group, private counseling for individuals and couples is available. Individual and/or couple counseling fees are \$25.00 for a 1½ hour session. Standard fees for groups are \$50.00/mo. per person. The Kids Group is \$25.00/mo. per child. Because the therapists believe that women deserve quality counseling at prices they can afford, all rates are negotiable according to individual financial circumstances.

We hope to be able to offer this much-needed service to Cincinnati area lesbians indefinitely and on a full time basis. However, this will only be possible through your support. Please consider this an opportunity for YOU--not just for someone else.

For more information, call Barb at 541-5421.

by Barb and Lynn

* * * * *

LONDON, England--WICCA WOMEN'S Monday Night Fever at MANOLO'S Bar/Restaurant, 307 Lillie Road, London, S.W. 6 (Tel. 385-1130). Women only--Monday nights only. 9PM-1AM

METIS PRESS: WILD WOMEN DON'T GET THE BLUES

(Ed. note: The following article was delivered to DINAH by Miranda and details with humor the struggles of 3 winmin (who have friends in Cincinnati) to set up a feminist press collective. Originally printed in Sojourner, January, 1978, it is reprinted here with permission of the author).

Metis Press is a collective of three women who literally found a printing press in their basement, a press with jammed gears that had been swallowing dried ink for a year. They borrowed it, named it Ernestine, and tried to make friends with her. Ernestine was both lethargic and cantankerous. Spit ink at them, flipped hundreds of sheets of paper into the air and went on breaks alone. Finally one evening, Ernestine began laying eggs, smooth white unwrinkled sheets; Chris Johnson lifted one, triumphant cool to her cheek. What was this? What had Ernestine written on this page? "Metis Press Stinks!"

So began our grapple with reality: replacing parts, lubricating, precision adjusting. None of us knew how to print. None of us had any time, any money. At the end of nine months, none of us had any energy left; but we'd printed our first big job, the Vol. 3, No. 2 issue of Black Maria. We'd worked weekends and evenings, one person to feed, one person to catch, one person to recur the cheap paper in cylinders over the radiators. We'd started token books, calculating our IOU wages at the assumed production rate of 1000 printed pages per one-half hour, though more accurately 1000 pages was at that time requiring three days. I kept running through the house yelling "Instant Success," our motto; "Instant Success" when the main switch worked again; "Instant Success" when the pages stopped sticking together; "Instant Success" after we had sprayed every cover with hardener by hand.

We were finished. But nobody knew. We rushed to write other women's presses, understanding women whowe'd met at the Women in Print conference the year before. We wanted to tell Chicago. We wanted to appear in public with dirty aprons, ink-filled fingernails, drooping eyelids, smudged faces, greasy hair. We wanted everyone to see our hard work. But stories from a dark basement are sometimes hard to understand. We decided, instead, that Metis should take us to dinner. So I loaned Metis \$20, another IOU into the files, and we went out to applaud ourselves. When we returned home, we found a cat in our office, ready at that very moment, already poised, to piss into a box of our new magazines. We screamed, laughed, cried, fought. We were sick of each other. We put up a sign "Please keep this door shut" and declared a vacation.

A Metis Press perspective was emerging. We unanimously decided that neither were we capable of, nor did we aspire to be, a "job shop." We wanted to print and publish books. We wanted to explore the concept of self-publishing, of non-traditional contracts with authors, of encouraging women to invest in our work and to share control in the publishing of their work. Fusing the separate roles of the women-into-print process, demystifying the publisher, became one of our goals.

Barbara Emrys is a member of the Metis Press collective and the author of our first book, Wild Women Don't Get the Blues. She saw advantages to participating in her own publication. She needed to feel her book growing from/in her hands. She wanted to design her own cover, to help fold the pages, to layout her copy. She wanted to present her work to a discernible public, receive feedback, communicate, complete the circle.

The women of Metis experienced a philosophy quite similar to the Wild Women philosophy: "publishing a book is impossible, let's do it anyway." Chris Johnson who is almost entirely responsible for the actual printing of Wild Women (it is rumored that she and Ernestine are going steady) explains why: "We like it!" She talks about the problems of working without necessary equipment, of the day that she and Barbara joked about selling a Collate-it-and-Bind-it-Yourself Book Kit. Several days later, they discovered the possibility of stitching the inside pages of the book on a sewing machine. It is because of this rediscovery/readaptation of one of our own women-skills that we have now chosen a quilt pattern for the Metis logo. We have decided to combat depression when faced with the formidable task of distributing, to apply for tax-exempt status even though "business work" bores us. Metis is a group of women working.

Metis Press (continued)

Editor's Note: Wild Women Don't Get the Blues is available by mail from Metis Press c/o 815 W. Wrightwood, Chicago, IL 60614. \$3.00 plus 25 cents postage.

--Chris Straayer

MESSAGE FROM MICHIGAN WOMEN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL

(Editor's Note: For the 3rd year in a row, the We Want the Women's Music Collective is sponsoring an outdoor Women's Music Festival at the end of August. The following letter is their appeal to you both for understanding and for input.)

Dear Sisters:

The We Want the Music Collective has been meeting in the past three months to examine and evaluate last year's festival and to give birth to some new ideas for this year. One of the things we have carefully considered is the relevance of the festival itself because of the inherent complications and varied dynamics which occur at an event of this size. In weighing the negative aspects against the positive experience, our perspective as well as our feedback has been that the setting of the festival provides a uniquely supportive environment in which we see womyn making changes, sharing energies and realizing new & powerful possibilities of our growing womyn's culture. We feel that the size of the event reflects the importance of the festival in womyn's lives and the energy generated by this large gathering of womyn is special in its intensity and helps create a feeling of strength and solidarity. Realizing our strength in numbers has been a powerful force in many womyn's lives - and although the relevance of such an event may lessen in years to come as our collective power becomes increasingly visible, at this point in our growth process the very existence of it exemplifies the magnitude of our movement and is a revelation to many.

So, we've been doing lots of heavy duty brainstorming and at this point we'd like to share our ideas with you for your input so that this year's festival will come closer to meeting all our diverse needs and fantasies. We have been critical of the inadequacies or shortcomings of situations in the past and hope that the innovations we have planned will be wise improvements. Beyond that, we hope that some of the new schemes will excite you as they do us. So, here's some things we've come up with:

CONCERTS/JAMS/TIME & SPACE: One major problem last year was the over-scheduling of the stage - performers' space was hurried, technicians had to work around the clock to keep up, and when technical difficulties arose we were faced with serious time problems which caused pressures and at times made the stage inaccessible to womyn not directly involved. In addition musicians who needed the use of the piano or other stage facilities for jamming or rehearsal found it virtually impossible to secure such time. So this year we are planning:

- 1) Scheduling concerts for evenings only, with four performers per night, beginning before dusk on each day of the festival;
- 2) Building an open mic stage a good distance from the main stage equipped with an acoustic piano, sound system & sound personnel;
- 3) Providing two additional tents for jamming & rehearsal, both equipped with a piano or electric keyboard, & one which will also have electricity for non-acoustic instruments.

In addition to alleviating the problems previously mentioned, we feel that these changes would encourage more participation & create a spirit of musical sharing beyond the concert atmosphere. Limiting the scheduled concerts to evenings will hopefully leave daylight hours free to make skill & experience sharing a priority.

(Continued on next page)

MICHIGAN WOMEN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL (continued)

POETS & PUPPETEERS: Music is our focus at this festival, but we would like to support womyn in theatre, mime, comedy, story-reading, dance, etc. (the non-musical performing arts) in whatever way we can. One suggestion is to set aside some scheduled time at open mic for such performances so that they can be listed on the workshop schedule & given the special kind of space they demand. We'd like to highlight these so that womyn might make more time to experience them. Your suggestions on this are welcome.

FOOD & HEALTH: (or: The Yoghurt Goes Round & Round & It Comes Out Here): Cooking for 5,000 aint easy - but this year there will be paid coordinators in food & health to insure the maximum quality with a knowledge of cooking expertise, nutrition, and healing arts. Both medical & natural healing methods will be represented in the health tent. We will provide natural vegetarian food with an emphasis on tasty cooked evening meals & more appetizing methods of storing & serving.

YOUNG MALES: We want to be sensitive to womyn with male children as well as to womyn who feel uncomfortable with the presence of boys at the festival. Many womyn have suggested various compromises to this difficult dilemma; one is to set an age limit - under 8" or "under 10" also offered are ideas about designating places or times for womyn only space or mixed space. A special camping area for womyn with male children or setting aside a portion of the land as womyn only space are two possible alternatives. We also want to be responsible in a clear & respectful way to womyn who request womyn only space in which to share their music. We feel it's important that these decisions are made on the basis on input from many womyn - so we especially ask you to think this issue through with respect for the various perspectives and to offer workable suggestions.

WORKSHOPS: This year WWTMC will be organizing some activities other than concerts, such as a daily "Howzit Goin'?" workshop for womyn to share emotional/personal responses to the sometimes overwhelming festival environment. There will also be an AA group, meeting at the festival. We will be having med- and post-festival feedback sessions for group input/criticism, non-musical performances at open mic, and maybe a few surprises. We are hoping to prepare the printed workshop schedule further in advance this year, so if you're interested in facilitating a workshop, please send us the info on your workshop (with title & short description) as early as possible. Deadline for this info is August 1st. We have agonized over questions such as whether to limit the number of workshops in order to pay all facilitators - and have decided that this would be counter-productive in that it would discourage the very kind of sharing we are trying to encourage. We also feel that it would be unreasonable to try to make value judgments on the vast & varied workshop possibilities by paying some facilitators & not others. So, workshop facilitators will not be paid, but we will be putting a lot of energy into providing much better time & facilities for this kind of exchange.

THE FESTIVAL OF LINES: Where possible we hope to alleviate the hassle of long waits on line for water, food or other facilities by decentralizing these areas & providing more than one outlet.

DISABLED WOMYN: We are trying to think of ways to make the festival more accessible to disabled womyn. As much work as possible will be done on the grounds to make getting around easier for womyn in wheelchairs and walkers. We will be printing a small number of programs & brochures in braille and would appreciate any womyn who are fluent in signing and who would be interested in signing either concerts or workshops to contact the collective. We also strongly encourage any woman who has suggestions in this area to write us with your ideas.

We hope that these ideas address some of the criticisms we have had in examining the festival & we encourage further criticism, praise, and new ways to solve problems.

In Struggle,

THE WE WANT THE MUSIC COLLECTIVE

1501 Lyons St./Mt. Pleasant MI 48858

(517) 772-0582

EIGHT DAYS IN APRIL
Commentary by Wendy Winkler

They hit with the viciousness of the Nazis bombing London, and when they were done a similar destruction remained. "They" are the power brokers in Cincinnati, the behind the scenes elite who make the important decisions affecting the City and who exert control on both the City Council and the City Administration. The chronicle of events went like this:

Wedn. Apr. 12 & Thurs. Apr. 13--Police vice squad members in plain clothes arrest 67 men on the flimsiest of excuses even though such police activity is blatantly against Ohio law. Only a handful of the men have pleaded "not guilty;" the rest have pleaded "no contest" to avoid publicity in this mecca of punitive homophobia.

Sat., Apr. 15--Protest picnic in Burnet Woods draws 200 gays, mostly men, and some press. Very low key. That afternoon J. Kenneth Blackwell, bright young rising black star and vice mayor of Cincinnati, announces his opposition to the human rights ordinance on "moral grounds" and says he will not vote for it. (When he campaigned for office, he sang a different tune.) That night is bar harassment night. The Badlands is closed down due to police harassment of clients, and the Golden Lion never opens due to Board of Health sanctions. Jaywalking tickets at 2 am increase sharply beginning this night.

Sun. Apr. 16--A corrosive acid paint stripper is smeared on the car of Wendy Winkler, open lesbian, at her private residence. This is only the most recent destructive act to her residential property.

Mon., Apr. 17--The Cincinnati Enquirer publishes a vicious editorial referring to the "welcome police crackdown on homosexuals" who would "convert the City's park system into iniquitous dens."

Tues., Apr. 18--200 members of the gay community meet to plan counterstrike strategy; it is the beginning of the Cincinnati Lesbian/Gay Community.

Wedn., Apr. 19--Thomas Garner, black executive director of the black controlled Cincinnati Human Relations Commission, announces it has recommended withdrawing fair housing from the proposed human rights ordinance. Garner also stated that he questions including sexual preference in a fair housing ordinance.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the new plantation overseers are the former slaves. That gays have been sold down the river by blacks is the betrayal that hurts. Yet surprise is not appropriate. Of the 200-300 organizations that agreed to boycott non-ERA ratified states, none was a major black civil rights group such as NAACP, CORE, or SCLC. The partially empowered black man in America has made it clear for a long time that his only allegiance is to himself and The Man. It is time to identify such men as the enemy too. Anita Bryant Blackwell and Anita Bryant Garner deserve no support from the lesbian or gay communities.

In the meantime we remind Cincinnati that the femicides of 17 young area girls since 1975 by heterosexual men remain unsolved. The battered women's shelter has a secret location to protect heterosexual women from their violently out of control husbands. The rape crisis center continues to offer support and aid to victims of

EIGHT DAYS (continued)

violent heterosexual sex crimes. Incest committed by heterosexual men is rampant in this country. The molestation of young girls by their fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and brothers remains unchallenged. The homosexual community, numbering between 30,000 to 50,000 in Cincinnati, has no such record of victims.

Perhaps it is time to suggest removing the civil rights of heterosexuals. If rights to a job, housing, and public accommodations are to be denied to a few, then civil rights for no one is obviously the only equitable solution. The real danger of child molestation comes from heterosexual men, after all, not from homosexual men or lesbians.

The irony of all this is that Mayor Springer is quoted in NIP Magazine, January 1978, as follows:

"For me to be 33 and to have survived my problems (i.e., having been caught paying a prostitute with a check), and for Ken to be 29 and Vice-Mayor and Black and to have won his first time out for Council says that this city is an open city. Anyone can get involved and help frame and shape the future of this community."

Bullshit, Mr. Mayor, Bullshit.

Dear Wendy,

Here's a small contribution to Dinah. I'm scraping the bottom of the barrel now -- living on my savings out here in Jesusville, trying to get some writing done. This place has four churches for 600 people, and three of the churches are fundamentalist. I hear that someone is passing around anti-gay and anti-abortion petitions, but so far I haven't been approached.

Mostly I hang out with the town liberals -- the schoolteacher and his wife, the doctor's wife, and the bookstore owner. It's a good place to write -- situated on the edge of the national forest. In the fall, I'll be moving back to the city, though.

Meanwhile, good luck to you and keep up the work in Ohio. Here I am restricted to passing out feminist literature to the liberals. I don't dare approach anyone else, because it's too easy for a dyke to get lynched around here.

If you want to publish this letter, please omit my name and the name of this town.

In sisterhood,

Revered name withheld

Dear Sister,

It is more than a privilege for me to receive this letter from you as back in 1971 a piece you wrote in a feminist anthology was the first article on lesbianism I had ever been exposed to. I was closeted then even to myself and what you wrote helped me. Your present circumstances remind me of how un-free we really are. Thank you for sharing. --Wendy

CONCERT AT MOTHER'S BREW

Woody Simmons, along with Nancy Vogl (of Berkeley Women's Music Collective), appeared at Mother's Brew, a wimmin's bar in Louisville, Kentucky, on May 5th. Woody is on a cross-country tour to promote her album OREGON MOUNTAINS, which is distributed by Olivia Records.

I got a chance to talk with Nancy before the first set. She emphasized that the concert was Woody's, that she was along to help her promote the album. They have played music together for about four years in the Bay Area.

I asked about Berkeley Women's Music Collective. (They played two concerts in Cincinnati a few years ago and I remembered her from that band.) Were they still together as a group? Yes, and there will be another album!

"We contracted with each other to do another album and tour. Maybe we can set something up for Cincinnati again?"

Woody sits on the stool, one leg outstretched, all intense concentration. It was just her and the banjo. One of my favorite songs from the album, "Banjo Raga," a clever blend of bluegrass and Indian music, builds slowly, persistently, (like a wimmin's revolution) to a climactic frenzy.

She stands up with a modest, subdued air and trades her banjo for an acoustic guitar. Woody Simmons and Nancy Vogl have marvelous harmony. Not only do they sing well, they are both talented and versatile musicians. In the course of one evening, they played the following instruments: acoustic guitar, electric bass, electric piano, banjo, slide guitar, and a round-backed mandolin.

Woody did most of the songs from her album, but did not restrict herself to these. She and Nancy did a number of fine instrumentals from the traditions of folk and mountain music. They did a union organizing song that sent chills up my spine. They played homage to Hazel Dickens (of Hazel & Alice, two women who have been around in the mountain music tradition) by doing the tune she wrote called "Don't Put Her Down," that Cassie Culver has recently revived.

One song entitled "Bananas and Cream" took me back to the rock 'n roll of the 50's. Woody introduced the song: "I had a girlfriend once ... We had a contest to see who could write this song first. I won."

Another example of her low-keyed sense of humor was her introduction to a song entitled, "Goin' Down South," which she said she wrote during one of those "slumps" all writers seem to experience. "I told myself I would write again ... so I wrote this instead." It turned out to be one of the most popular, foot-stampin' songs that evening.

Nancy and Woody took a traditional tune by blues singer "Doc" Watson and changed it around to fit into a lesbian-feminist perspective. "Ninety percent of old folk tunes are sexist," Nancy claimed, "and the other 10% are written by women!?" They changed a line about "two maids lyin' in bed, wishin' one was a man" to "one rolled over and said, Why don't we make love?"

Heavily influenced by jazz were two solos Woody played on electric piano: "Mockingbird" and "I'll Give it All to the Music." Although "Mockingbird" is very up-tempo, these songs showed her moodier, blues-ier side.

Although the idea for "Feather in the Wind" is trite, something about the song appeals to me. Maybe it's because I hope I'll always be a searcher.

chorus: "My life is like a feather in the wind
Not knowin' which way it will turn next
Fallin' gently back to the earth
To seek the Mother, to sleep upon Her breast."

It's the sort of song I would expect from the Northwest, land of communal farms, observance of the seasons, and Womenspirit -- the energy as well as the magazine.

The song I like even better is the title song, "Oregon Mountains."

"Oregon mountains callin' to me
that's where my heart will always be."

The energy from the chorus of 18 women joining in with Woody on the album stimulates and reminds me that a woman's spirituality exists, even here in this city.

It's a good feeling I got, from the concert and the album. If you're expecting political statements via ballads, you'll probably be disappointed. But in the sense that we all have deep connections as women, with common bonds (corny as they sometimes can be), much good energy is put out by these two.

-- Karen (Phebe) Beiser

INTERVIEW WITH WOODY SIMMONS

Confiding that this wasn't her best night, Woody sat in a back room of the bar between sets, after consenting to do an interview. She is very down-to-earth and has definitely not fallen into the "startrip" that some performers have.

PHEBE: "Tell me about your tour so far."

WOODY: "Well, we left the Bay Area on March 15 and are on our way next to Columbus, Ohio and then to Durham, North Carolina. We've already been East to Boston, and then to Ann Arbor. We're heading for Florida, and then we'll go home."

All the audiences have been real receptive. It's neat because a lot of women already have the album and know the songs."

P: Has anything interesting or unusual happened?

W: Hmm. Not that I can think of right now... We've gotten some pretty good reviews. Boston really liked us. The feminist paper there gave us a good review.

We were even reviewed by the Kansas City Star! A "regular" review in a "regular" paper. But, Des Moines ... We talked with this reporter -- a man -- for two hours. He was a humanist (she wrinkled her nose). He just couldn't understand separatism.

P: There seems to be a focus on banjo, in your concert and on the album. Or is that just me noticing it?

W: Banjo just gets all the attention.

- P: Well, there aren't very many women who play it. Would you like to be seen as more versatile?
- W: Yes.
- P: Which instrument did you start on?
- W: Piano. Unless you count the ukelele.
- P: Formal training?
- W: Yes. I've been playing music for 24 years... Aw, don't put that.
- P: In your introduction to "Goin' Down South," you mentioned a "slump" in your writing. I'm wondering -- what do you do when you get in one of these writing slumps? Is there anything you can do?
- W: Just keep writing ... Sometimes I write poetry...
- P: Tell me about the front cover of your album. It's interesting.
- W: You're the first one who's told me she likes it!
- P: What's the background on it?
- W: Mary, my manager, took the picture. It's actually a negative. It was taken in the Berkeley Hills of me carrying my banjo.
- P: Do you know yet whether you'll be playing at the Illinois Women's Music Festival or at the Michigan one?
- W: I'm still waiting to hear from Illinois. It depends on whether they can fly me in. I'll have just gotten back to the West Coast. They're still deciding on whether the budget can afford it.
- I'll definitely be at Michigan, though.
- P: What's next? Another album, another tour?
- W: Yes, both. On this album, I used a lot of friends from the Bay Area who have been supportive and who I've been playing music with for years. But I want to give other women, nationally, a chance to get on records and learn recording skills. For example, there's this really neat woman drummer in Salt Lake City...
- I think some recording companies, like Olivia, tend to use the same people over and over. I'd like to try to get away from that. I feel it's really important to be supportive of other women musicians.
- P: I have one really tacky question: What sign are you?
- W: Aries. I have five planets in Aries.

-- Karen (Phebe) Belser

.. A DIFFERENT STORY (or Homosexuality Revised and Edited)

Pernicious, odious, abusive, malicious.... The thesaurus rambles on, but the best adjective has yet to present itself. "Damaging" isn't forceful enough, but the mood and the intent are there. While I feel it is important to publicize the nature of the movie, A Different Story at the same time I am almost too angry to offer even a skeletal analysis. Rather than a simple "DON'T SEE IT," however, I will attempt a brief explanation.

After the first few glossy scenes, Hollywood manages to wed a gay man and lesbian under the same roof. Ah, you say, perhaps this will be "a different story" after all. When the movie begins, Stella (the lesbian) is shown leading a comfortable, independent life as a real estate agent. Several scenes later, Albert (the gay man) moves in (after his male lover throws him out) and assumes the role of "lady of the house." Albert minces, whines, cooks and cleans while Stella brings home the bacon. For a short while, the male/female role reversal is amusing, but only for a very short while. Any positive effects that the sex role reversals could have had is totally negated by the insidious reinforcement of negative gay stereotypes.

One by one each aspect of the gay life style is methodically served up and sacrificed to the idols of heterosexuality. Albert, the dress designer. Albert, the cook. Albert, the seamstress. Albert, the "housewife." Stella, the "man of the house." The men in the movie are generally pictured as wispy, cruising deviates, while Stella's lover, Phyllis, seems chronically embroiled in hysteria. Phyllis is portrayed as a neurotic fizgig brimming with crocodile tears and jealous apprehensions. The stereotypes of the instability of gay relationships along with the insanity of those involved in them is portrayed vividly and viciously.

As for the sanity of the main characters, Albert and Stella's "craziness" is miraculously cured by their one-night, overnight conversion to the Straight and Narrow. That's right folks, all you need is a good f--- to set you straight. Amidst insistent boos from myself and a few others in the audience, Stella and Albert "go straight" without the slightest hint of regret or the smallest psychological or physical adjustment. From the moment of the "curing f---" hapless heterosexuality triumphs. Stella gets pregnant and assumes her "womanly" household duties. Albert secures a dress designing position and clambers up the suburban ladder of success. Even Stella's cat, Chuck, who roamed freely at the beginning of the movie is reduced to a doggedly obedient feline. With the introduction of "heterosexual bliss" even the damn cat is domesticated.

With Chuck last seen languishing in the back seat of the Mercedes, the pace quickens. The baby arrives and Stella dons a bitchy air of domestic drudgery. Meanwhile, Albert begins to stray. By now the boos have subsided in lieu of a clamoring for a salvaged ending (if not salvation). But not a single scrap of hope is thrown our way; Albert isn't having an affair with his male boss, after all. Instead, we learn that the "other woman" actually is another woman. (Albert drops his gentle mien for the familiar "instant macho").

After a few apologies from Albert for having to prove his manhood, he and Stella are off again. Later, after numerous racings, chasings, and deus ex machina scenes we arrive at the celebrated HAPPY ENDING. Heterosexuality and all its perversities triumph once again. We leave the happy couple rapturously reunited as the cloyingly sweet theme song lingers on.

(continued on next page)

A DIFFERENT STORY...(continued)

If this movie had been about straights it would have been mediocre, but harmless. As it is, the movie remains mediocre, but it is far from innocuous. It is a deliberately degrading and exploitative portrayal of gay life. Its slick message gives colorful credence to the Anita Bryant et al sentiment. I regret that I did not have the information set forth here before I saw the movie. You have not wasted your time in being forewarned. Please don't waste your money at the box office.

---maggie

* * * * *

ROOT CHAKRA: Erotic lesbian poetry by Victoria Ramstetter. Order by sending \$2.50 (includes postage & handling) to: Victoria Ramstetter, P. O. Box 20152, Cincinnati, Ohio 45220.

* * * * *

What Do You Know? (Bible and Homosexuality)

We are daily bombarded with religious bigots who believe the Bible condemns homosexuals. What will we say to a misinformed and bigoted society who slams the so called "Word of God" in our faces in the form of a paraphrase or (mis)translation? How long will we suffer emotional and sociological nose bleeds because we don't know the first thing about their ammunition, the Bible?

Our own religious faith has little or nothing to do with the issue. This is not a "Back to the Bible" rally. The question is, can we afford to stand by uninformed? My observance shows the cowering of homosexuals before the born again conservatives. (Anita Bryant and others have admitted they do not know the Bible). Because we cower we become the victims of their propaganda. The Bible is the straight bigot's no. 1 weapon. We can only defend our position by knowing what it truly says so we may answer in a way they can not refute.

The most commonly used book by the conservatives is the "Living Bible". It is to my knowledge the most irresponsible work presented in the name of Holy Scripture. The Living Bible is not a translation. It is a paraphrase. A paraphrase of any kind is always highly vulnerable to bias, bigotry and personal prejudices.

While learned people of religion realize the invalidity of paraphrases, many still use the Living Bible to support their bigotry. I refer you to some examples of "the Living Bible" compared to "The King James Version" and other English translations on the subject of homosexuality. In I Cor. 6:9-10 the Living Bible uses the word "homosexuals" while the King James uses "effeminate". The word "effeminate" here comes from the Greek word malakos. The English translations of the word malakos are rightfully: soft, mild, tender, but never homosexual.

Jude 7 is a favorite of the bigots. It states in the Living Bible "lust of every kind including lust of men for other men". The King James states "lust of every kind including going after

(continued...)

THE BIBLE (Continued)

"strange flesh." Other translations say "other flesh" or "carnal lusts, sexual immorality and perversion, impurity and indulged in unnatural vice, and sensual perversity and unnatural lusts."

When read from literal translations with Hebrew references, we have in the Bible a fairly clear picture of two men in love: David & Jonathan in I Sam. 18 through II Sam. 1. (Sorry wimmin, there doesn't seem to be much in the Bible for us.)

In the Living Bible this story has been completely changed. Note I Sam. 20:41, "... David came out from where he had been hiding near the south edge of the field and they sadly shook hands, tears running down their cheeks until David could weep no more." The same verse in the King James version says: "... David arose out of a place toward the south and fell on his face to the ground and bowed himself 3 times, & they kissed one another until David exceeded." The word "exceeded" here comes from the Hebrew word "higdil." The literal meaning is "He got great, magnified, made great." (Hebrew: derivative of orgasms.)

In the Living Bible you will find no reference to the word "higdil." It has been totally ignored. The replacement "shake hands" to say the very least, seems terribly cold for such an intimate moment.

Will we continue to ignore our opponents' slaps and wounds by the misuse of the Scriptures? McCall's May survey of 60,000 women says 9 out of 10 women believe in God and most of them believe in Holy Revelation through a sacred book. If we do not have knowledge of the Bible it may very well be our biggest threat.

If we truly believe we are condemned for who we are, by a supreme being we are a sad people. We could have been taught all sorts of things --Let's get the facts.

REFERENCES:

The Living Bible paraphrased
The King James Version of the Holy Bible
Greek Lexicon (Albert Barnes)
Historia Plantarum (Theophrastus the Philosopher)
The Holy Bible from Ancient Eastern Manuscripts
Hebrew/English Testament of Scriptures

--LaVerne B.

M O V I N G ? PLEASE TAKE A MINUTE TO FILL OUT AND MAIL THE FOLLOWING:

Name _____

Old Address _____

New Address _____

Please include zip codes. SEND TO: LAB, P.O. Box 24257
Cincinnati, OH 45224

(Thanks. You have just saved us 25¢ return postage on your next DINAH.)

I Cover The Revolting Marlana Gardenia/Roving Despondent

- 1:00am - I consider some news items from last summer. News about the drought in California, forest fires in California, floods and mudslides in California the veterinarian who died of plague in California and the buckling and shifting of ground over the San Andreas Fault in southern California.
- 1:10am - I experience a sweeping sense of historical trashback and half expect stories about famine, pestilence and a rain of frogs.
- 1:11am - None seem to be immediately forthcoming.
- 1:15am - Since most of the above stories and weather have been covered, I decide to develop some alternative news and weather.
- 1:17am - My first news story will be The Importance of the Grassy Knoll in National Disgrace. This will be an in depth study of the first Kennedy assination and the Kent State murders.
- 1:20am - Not one to separate church and state, I'll cover EST, Silva Mind Control and the Catholic Church in a piece called A Suspicious Number of People Have the Answers.
- 1:30am - In health news, Why I'll Keep Smoking If It Kills Me will be my declaration of support to those who smoke under anxiety of attack by that higher life form, the reformed smoker.
- 1:40 am - My rape article will be Why Men Respond To Abuse. There is evidence of this everywhere, especially in such boys clubs as the Army, Navy, Marines and medical colleges around the country. It is clear that men like to be dominated. Given this premise, it is very likely true they want to be raped.
- 1:50am - I'll declare my ethics in Why I Choose A Career In Propoganda. Since a philosophy will lend substance to my ethics, I remember a technique from the Famous Lesbian School of Political Hoopla for making a snap decision. I toke a plunge and come up with this - Suck a lemon in the morning and you'll be smiling the rest of the day.

Weather - Overcats & crazy

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PUBLICATION OF THE LESBIAN ACTIVIST BUREAU, INC.
MARCH, 1978 ISSUE. P.O. Box 24257, Cincinnati, Ohio 45224
Phone 513/541-5132 Wendy Winkler, Editor this issue --
Contributors: Sandie Garsey, Debbie A., Carolyn, Brook, Mary,
Debbie X, and Ellen

DINAH GONNA RISE AGAIN

"Whatever happened to DINAH?" The question has ricocheted from coast to coast as frantic lesbians have searched their pockets, between their mattresses, and in their stashes of grass to see whether just possibly DINAH had been mislaid. She had indeed slipped between the cracks but the scenario was right at home in Cincinnati and not a nationwide phenomenon as it sometimes seemed.

It began with the unscheduled burnout of Sandie whose special touch had created DINAH and without whom DINAH seemed pitifully lost. (Of course, whoever schedules burnout? It just happens.) Then it seemed Debbie A. would be able to assume major initiative, but outside forces such as a branch of a certain government agency refused to cooperate, having, it seems, a personal vendetta against Debbie. Other energies, such as Wendy's, surfaced from time to time only to be blown down by another gusty assault from the Vandals of 77 or the Blizzard of 78.

DINAH by this time was orphaned with major reparenting in order. Not only that, she was scattered -- a piece at this person's pad, two pieces there. This issue represents DINAH's timid but determined return. The beautiful cover, thanks to Mary, is the first of many. Other wimmin tending to this issue have been Carolyn, Brook and Debbie X in addition to Sandie, Debbie A., and Wendy.

The new DINAH Committee plans to publish DINAH as a monthly newsletter the first week of each month, size to depend on how much news is gathered. Each quarter DINAH will expand to include creative prose, political discussion, educational pieces, and book reviews. The expanded quarterly issues will be in the months of Summer Solstice (June), Autumn Equinox (September), Winter Solstice (December) and Spring Equinox (March).

The new DINAH committee wants to make 1978 a very special DINAH year. We welcome any woman wanting to give energy, ideas and time to DINAH. Call Wendy at 541-5132.

All copy, news items, and announcements must be submitted by the third Thursday of each month. Mail to LAB, P.O. Box 24257, Cincinnati, OH 45224.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN FAIRIES? CLAP YOUR HANDS THREE TIMES OUTDOORS ON THE NIGHT OF SPRING EQUINOX (MARCH 21). MAYBE THE BIONIC BUTCH WILL RETURN.

THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE COMES THROUGH

In mid-November, 1977, LAB received a letter that began, "Gentlemen:"

For once, we almost didn't mind being called..."Gentlemen."

The letter continued: "This is in reference to your application for recognition of exemption from Federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code."

This quaint communication went on to say that LAB had received advance standing as a non-profit tax exempt corporation. What this means is that if LAB continues to be a "credible" resource for lesbians and for the larger community, we can enjoy the same tax status as--believe it, sister--the Catholic Church. Closer to home, it means you can contribute \$\$\$ to LAB and deduct it from your personal income tax as a charitable donation. DINAH can now come to you for 2.1¢ postage instead of 8.6¢ per copy. And LAB does not have to pay income tax. Your contributions, then, can be used to the greatest possible good for LAB, for lesbians, and for yourself.

Most of DINAH's readers are aware of the difficulties some gay sympathetic groups have had in getting the privileged IRS status. LAB did not receive it easily either. The IRS took almost a year to send the approval letter. Persistence helps, along with credibility, but we suspect the National Gay Task Force, Midge Costanza, advisor to President Carter, and the IWY resolutions had a hand in helping modify the Washington climate. For that, LAB thanks everyone who has lobbied, voted or written for non-discriminatory granting of 501 (c) (3).

Next year at this time the IRS will review LAB again to make a final determination of our status. This means LAB will need lots of woman energy to carry out her purposes of serving the lesbian community. We need ideas for fundraising, expansion, and an office/resource room of our own. Call Wendy, 541-5132, if you can get involved. Come to the LAB meetings. The next one is March 19.

I.W.Y. RESOLUTION -- SEXUAL PREFERENCE

(Following is the text of the sexual preference resolution passed at the national International Women's Year Conference in Houston)

"Congress, State, and local legislatures should enact legislation to eliminate discrimination on the basis of sexual and affectional preference in areas including, but not limited to, employment, housing, public accommodations, credit, public facilities, government funding, and the military.

State legislatures should reform their penal codes or repeal State laws that restrict private sexual behavior between consenting adults.

State legislatures should enact legislation that would prohibit consideration of sexual or affectional orientation as a factor in any judicial determination of child custody or visitation rights. Rather, child custody cases should be evaluated solely on the merits of which party is the better parent, without regard to that person's sexual and affectional orientation."

WE LOVE YOU, JEAN O'LEARY!

LAB COFFEES

LAB continues to hold weekly coffees on Thursday nights beginning at 7:30 p.m. A good way to meet winmin and share a mellow evening with good winmin's music. Lesbians only. For directions, call Marie, 591-2821.

LESBIAN RESOURCE BOOK

Our Right to Love is a lesbian resource book produced by Ginny Vida and the Women of the National Gay Task Force. It's called "a landmark volume bringing together the most authoritative lesbian writers and activists in the country dealing openly with the special problems of lesbian women in more than 40 articles. Subjects include legal problems, therapy, coming out, lesbian research, health issues, lesbian mothers, sexuality, lesbian feminism, and lesbian culture."

It also contains a comprehensive national resource list of organizations, services, etc. as well as personal testimony.

Contributors include Rita Mae Brown, Del Martin, Bertha Harris, Charlotte Bunch, Dolores Noll (from Kent State!), Sidney Abbot, Elaine Noble, Betty Powell and many more.

Advance copies can be ordered at \$1.00 discount from the NGTF, 80 Fifth Avenue, N.Y., N.Y. 10011. The advance discount price is \$11.95 (\$12.95 regular). Allow 6 weeks for delivery.

DEL MARTIN COMING TO CINCINNATI

On March 10 Del Martin will be in town helping with the Battered Women's Shelter. She will also be at a potluck dinner from 7 to 10 p.m. at D.G.'s. This is a fantastic opportunity to meet and learn from a pioneer of lesbian organizing. Del was a key founder of the Daughters of Bilitis in the 1950's, was the first national coordinator for the NOW Task Force on Sexuality and Lesbianism, and is co-author of Lesbian Woman and a book on battered wives. For more information check at the LAB coffees or call 961-5934.

MONEY ANYONE?

Even with LAB's new tax exempt status, it still takes \$\$\$\$ to put out DINAH. Last issue 34 DINAH's were returned for change of address costing almost \$9.00 in return postage. DINAH's new permit cost \$40 and each individual issue costs about 20¢ to send. This averages \$60 a mailing.

In the past only about 20% of DINAH's receivers have sent anything, and some faithful souls have donated lots. We have asked for only \$3.00. That's one movie or two mixed drinks. And even that's just an estimate. Donations are just that--a gift of what you can afford. All such gifts are welcome. Send to LAB, P.O. Box 24257, Cincinnati, OH 45224.

M O V I N G ? PLEASE TAKE A MINUTE TO FILL OUT AND MAIL THE FOLLOWING:

Name _____

Old Address _____

New Address _____

Please include zip codes. SEND TO: LAB, P.O. Box 24257
Cincinnati, OH 45224

HUMAN RIGHTS ORDINANCE

The Cincinnati Human Rights Coalition met with Councilmember Tom Brush on February 6 at St. John's Unitarian Church. The comprehensive human rights ordinance had been returned from the City Solicitor's office with two important changes--elimination of the education protection and change of jurisdiction from civil to criminal law.

The latter change needs to be explored for all ramifications as breaking the law would be a misdemeanor and would depend on the prosecutor's office for enforcement. Mr. Brush admitted this means the county prosecutor (i.e., Simon Leis) would have some authority since municipal court has been incorporated into the county court.

Mr. Brush said councilmembers view the law as a gay rights bill only and are not eager to vote on it. The votes are currently insufficient to pass it, he said. He would prefer an 8-1 or 7-2 favorable vote to a 5-4. Should the ordinance pass, we can expect a referendum.

Brush urged the coalition to get more powerful community support--such as from the Archbishop, the PTA's, and the 44 Community Councils.

His phone calls were running 25 against the ordinance, 0 for. His mail was about the same. The anti's were names he associates with pro-life.

After Brush left, discussion of further strategy led to no agreement by the end of the discouraging meeting.

FEMINIST CONGRESS HOLDS HEARING

On February 15, the Feminist Congress of Greater Cincinnati held a public hearing at the First Unitarian Church. The purpose was to hear specific testimony on how women are discriminated against in Cincinnati.

Wendy Winkler spoke for the Lesbian Activist Bureau. Her remarks centered on the double bind of lesbians--on the punishments if they are public such as loss of physical safety, of jobs, of homes, and of children--and on the punishments if they remain hidden such as loss of self-respect, living a lie furtively as if a criminal, and constant fear of exposure. She gave specific examples of physical harassment and job discrimination.

Wendy also read testimony prepared by a lesbian mother who was in the audience but who could not risk being identified because of her current battle to regain her children who have been kidnapped by their father.

The first question directed to Wendy was from a man who believed that the Equal Rights Amendment would give equal rights to gays. This misconception, promoted by opponents of the ERA, shows how great a need there is in Cincinnati for education around lesbian and gay concerns.

NATIONAL GAY BLUE JEANS DAY has been scheduled for Friday, April 14. Campus gay groups will announce and publicize that lesbians and gay men will wear blue jeans that day to demonstrate gay pride and self-affirmation. National Gay Task Force is promoting the day.

LAB ANNUAL MEETING

On February 19, 1978, the annual meeting of the Lesbian Activist Bureau, Inc. was held as announced to all members by mail two weeks earlier. Originally scheduled for the last Sunday of January, the meeting was rescheduled because of bad weather.

Nine members and five guests attended. Wendy Winkler presided. 1977 was reviewed, the minutes from the last meeting were approved as was the treasurer's report.

A plaque was presented to Sandie Garsey as outgoing Director. It was inscribed as follows:

"TO SANDRA J. GARSEY, IN RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENT AS 1977 DIRECTOR OF THE LESBIAN ACTIVIST BUREAU, INC."

Members voted unanimously to (1) appoint a committee to review the by laws and to return to the members in three months with recommendations; (2) delay elections to the Board of Trustees until said committee's recommendations are heard and acted upon by the membership. A 3-member committee was appointed.

Also appointed was a committee of five members and two guests to work on DINAH (Under current by laws this makes the guests project members of LAB)

The location of the coffees was discussed because of the problem of harassment to private residences. Sandie agreed to contact Women Helping Women to see what may be available there.

Other discussion included the need for fundraising in general and for a mimeo for DINAH or to help support a full-time organizer/director in particular; the need for a center; and the need to figure out how to survive burn out as an organization.

LAB IN REVIEW, 1977

Jan.--LAB incorporated as a not for profit corporation by the state of Ohio. Weekly coffees begin. Sandie and Wendy attend 2nd Annual Feminist Therapy Conference in Boulder, CO at own expense. Speaking engagements begin and continue through the year.

Feb.--LAB receives bulk mailing permit and applies for IRS special tax exempt status.

Mar.--DINAH becomes LAB's official publication.

Apr.--July--NIMH grant application project. LAB runs ad in Cin'ti Post leading to outreach, counseling, and consciousness raising projects.

May--Reference library established at Wendy's.

June--IWY Conference in Columbus. The major lesbian organizing is done by LAB and COL with LAB taking final responsibility for resolutions submitted in advance and for 4,000 "suffragist" packets on lesbian rights.

July--Hueston Woods picnic and campout (DINAH's third annual rained out campout!) Sandie attends week long grantsmanship workshop for which she had obtained a scholarship from the State of Ohio.

Autumn--low key for reasons personal and external (such as weekly harassment of the house)

Nov.--success of national IWY and IRS approval of LAB for advance tax exempt standing.

(cont'd from preceding column)

The next meeting will be held March 19 at 2 p.m. Location can be learned at coffees or by calling 541-5132.

BEWARE OF VICIOUS STRAIGHT MEN

Anyone sponsoring a gay blue jeans day would be well advised to learn from Purdue Gay Alliance's experience last Oct. 14. One woman was beaten up by three males the night before just for talking about the day with friends. The beating occurred across from the Purdue Police Station and was remarkable for police non-interference. On the day itself a non-gay man was also punched out by three males for refusing to answer why he was wearing blue jeans.

So called "normal" people went berserk in the campus newspaper responding to the little 5-line classified ad run by the PGA. Many responses were violent. Two of the nastier examples were:

"STOCK UP NOW. Owen NW1 has plenty 'Neutron Queer Bombs.' They kill fags but leave their blue jeans standing. Sponsored by Purdue Neutron Bombs Against Queers Society."

"KILL A QUEER DAY. On Friday, October 14, all gay men and lesbians wearing blue jeans will be shot on site. Sponsored locally by the Purdue Straight Alliance."

One blue-jeaned woman carried a baseball bat to all her classes. Reports indicate she made it safely through the day.

Moral of the story: When wearing blue jeans on April 14, travel in numbers or carry a club. Preferably, do both.

LESBIAN MOTHERS RESEARCH

A 2-hour symposium on the "Implications of Psychological Research for the Rights of Lesbian Mothers and Their Children" will be presented by Drs. Dee Graham and Edna Rawlings of the University of Cincinnati at the Southeast Psychological Association Meeting in Atlanta, March 15-18.

THIRD MICHIGAN WOMYN'S FESTIVAL

The We Want The Music Collective is organizing a third Womyn's Music Festival to be held in Michigan in mid August, 1978.

We would like to hear tapes from womyn who would be interested in being a scheduled performer at this year's festival. We are requesting that the tapes have between 4 and 6 songs on them and that all tapes be submitted by March 18, 1978. Send tapes to: We Want The Music Collective, 1501 Lyons St., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

LESBIAN DEFENSE FUND

Essex Junction, VT.--The Lesbian Defense Fund (LDF) was set up here to "help lesbian mothers keep their children." Since its inception, the group has handled four cases and has two still pending. The successful challenges for the group ended in out-of-court settlements and LDF was buoyed by the victories.

In a recent statement, the group cautioned, however, that the successes should not lead people to a "possibly damaging illusion of what the situation is really like for the lesbian mother facing a custody battle."

"Most (lesbian mothers) are forced to go to court," LDF said, "and if they can afford to do that, most lose. Most custody cases are gruelling, emotionally and financially draining, and unsuccessful."

LDF is ready to "offer assistance to women and children" who are in a custody fight. The organization functions through a system of support groups. "A support group is organized around each mother and child. That support group comes to us for advice and referral--and then does the bulk of the legwork," LDF said. LDF is a non-profit, tax exempt group. For more info, write LDF, Box 4, Essex Junction, VT 05452. (from GCN)

INDIANAPOLIS NEWSNOTES

by Karen Williams

The anti-feminist delegates to the National Women's Conference in Houston could not disrupt the conference or prevent the passage of pro-feminist resolutions, but those in Indiana, at least, have not given up in their attempts to portray the conference as a misuse of "taxpayers' money" and to discredit feminists.

State Senator Joan Gubbins, Indiana's version of Phyllis Schlafly, set up an exhibit in the Statehouse rotunda Feb. 7-9 to display what she described as "pornographic" material that she managed to obtain at the Houston conference. At a press conference before the exhibit opened, Gubbins raved about the lesbians and prostitutes in their blatant T-shirts and attempted to give the impression that the material on lesbianism, prostitution and Marxism was furnished by the IWY Commission.

Gubbins' exhibit, guarded by several of the 31 anti-feminist IndianaIWY delegates and plastered with large "No Minors Allowed" signs, contained very little that could not be found in the average lesbian-feminist home. The highlight was a table filled with books and pamphlets including "Our Bodies, Ourselves," "Loving Women," "What Lesbians Do," "Liberating Masturbation," "Good Vibrations," and even "Majority Report." Many men were crowded around gleefully searching for a much-publicized "illustrated how-to manual on lesbian lovemaking."

Other material on display included pro-IWY newspaper articles, socialist publications, buttons, bumper stickers, and photos of COYOTE members and lesbians. There were also assorted materials about sex education, bisexuality and gay rights. The "guards" were actively encouraging dialogue with likeminded observers about how shocking and obscene the material was. One woman was heard to remark about "Our Bodies, Ourselves," "It's dirty, but at least there are heterosexuals in it."

Ironically, Gubbins' supporters were even more upset with Gubbins for displaying what they considered obscene and pornographic material in the lobby of the Statehouse. After numerous complaints were received, Gubbins was ordered to remove the display. She refused to do so and appealed to Governor Bowen. Bowen viewed the exhibit and found the material "offensive," but he refused to close the display before its scheduled three-day run expired.

Unfortunately, while Gubbins was trying to convince citizens that their tax money was somehow paying for the lesbian publications that she found in Houston, no one thought to ask how much she paid for her impressive collection.

(Editor's Note: The behavior described in this lively account is recurring throughout the Tri-State area of Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky. The radical right's obvious titillation at their "discoveries" in various IWY conferences is enough to make one pause and wonder. Wasn't it just 10 years ago that the same folk were similarly appalled and outraged by the dress and behavior of those they still call "hippies"? Those styles and that behavior went on to become mainstream culture among young Americans. Could it be...that we will be the next to capture the popular imagination? It's time. THANKS, KAREN, FOR CAPTURING THE ABSURDITIES SO WELL.)

THE CHEZ JOY METAMORPHOSIS

In some rooms the floor and ceiling were gone. The plumbing was bad. The front beer cooler sat on joists because the floor underneath was rotted away. It was a shambles of a bar that remained open to serve the uneducated hill people who had moved to the Hamilton-Middletown area from the South.

From such an unlikely beginning, a redneck relic, three hard-working and visionary lesbians created a warm and convivial gay bar, Chez Joy. Some portions of the bar were rebuilt, and extensive remodeling was done throughout until it's hard to believe the bar could ever have been rundown and battered. What has been created is a handsome bar with a textured decor and an open and friendly atmosphere reflecting the taste and personality of the owners.

The womyn, who asked to remain unnamed to protect other jobs they hold, spoke with us in a summer interview. They spoke of a dream each had had of opening a nice club for gay people. Perhaps the idea was born years ago when there was only one gay bar available in southwestern Ohio and northern Kentucky. Called the Jockaboo, it sat on the side of a hill, a derelict place that looked like it would fall into the river at any time. The womyn remember it as the kind of bar where the straight owner never put a penny back into the place. Yet 15 odd years ago the customers went uncomplaining to spend their money in some hole in the wall because it was the only spot available where gay people could socialize. Perhaps even back then these womyn began wishing and dreaming for something different, a clean, well decorated bar that didn't rip the clientele off but gave back in hospitality and respect.

But no matter when the dream started, it came true when Chez Joy opened in the summer of 1976. And the womyn didn't have an easy job of it. They maintain other jobs while running the club. One has her own business. It took a great deal of time and money to remodel the bar. And the first couple months of business was slow until the word went through the grapevine about the new bar and customers started coming.

Then one week after they opened, they were harassed by the local small town cowboy cops. At the time there were only two customers in the place when two men came to the door. Chez Joy is set up as a key club to discourage the return of the former redneck clientele. The two men were told it was a gay bar, bought the key memberships, and purchased two beers at the bar when ten of their cop buddies appeared at the door. They came stomping through the place, ignored by the two legitimate customers, shoved the juke box around, and looked for nonexistent reasons to write up a citation. When they did write up the citation, it was stupid. In spite of being shown the liquor license, the cops wrote a citation for bootlegging. It never got to court; in fact it was so dumb that the authorities were afraid they would be sued. They asked the owners of Chez Joy to sign a paper stating they wouldn't sue. But harassment costs, and for the owners the cost was \$500 in attorney fees. But the cops learned a lesson and haven't returned. The local authorities are even appreciative of the remodeling and change in the bar.

But there are other worries, such as worries about underage people sneaking in. The owners have to spend a lot of time closely checking I.D.'s and they've learned their customers can be tricky. One young woman had an I.D. that seemed almost perfect; even the

photo looked like her. But the owners checked closely and the height listed gave the woman away as having a false I.D.

They also worry about customers and drugs since the law states that club owners have to prove that pills or drugs weren't taken inside the bar if there is ever an incident. So they're careful, run a clean bar, keep a close watch out for the underaged, and hope their customers respect the business and won't place them in jeopardy around drug use.

Then there is the overhead, the maintenance costs. Womyn customers continue to flush menstrual products down the toilet in spite of being asked not to. The plumbing repairs have even yielded a wig.

But the owners enjoy what they're doing and put up with the worries and hassles. A great deal of rapport has developed with their customers. And the womyn and men come--from Cincinnati, Hamilton, Middletown, Dayton, and even as far away as Columbus and Cleveland. There are special events on holidays such as potluck picnics. The owners dream ahead to a time of using their restaurant license and having a menu, maybe even one day having a dinner club. They even wishfully dream of a gay country club with a swimming pool and tennis court.

Perhaps someday. After all these are the womyn who took a relic and changed it into a joy and a landmark, the first gay bar in the Hamilton-Middletown area.

Chez Joy is located at 495 Hamilton-Middletown Pike and is open Wednesday through Saturday, 8-30 to 2:30.

by Sandie Garsey

WOMEN'S MUSIC UNION SPONSORS CLASSICAL CONCERT

The Women's Music union will produce Mona Golabek on Tuesday, March 7, at 8:00 p.m. The concert will be held at the Ohio State University, Hughes Hall Auditorium, Room 100. Mona Golabek is a classical pianist who first came to international attention when she won the "People's Prize" at the Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw.

Among the works she will perform here are pieces by Beethoven, Chopin, Tchaikowsky, Bach, Liszt and Scriabin. Tickets are \$2.50 in advance, \$3.00 at the door. Advance tickets are available at OSU Women's Studies and Women's Services, Tradewinds, and Fan the Flames. For child care please call 262-3662 or 299-4587 before the date of the concert.

Mona will also conduct a special workshop on "Women in Classical Music" at the Hillel Foundation, 46 E. 16th Ave., on Wednesday, March 8, at 12:00 noon.

The concert and workshop are sponsored by the Women's Music Union, OSU Women's Studies and Hillel Women's Programming Board. If you wish to cover this event, or if you need more information, please contact Suzie at 299-4587.

NOTE: Any out-of-town wimmin who wish to attend the concert and need housing are urged to call Sharon or Terrie at 614/475-7494.

THE ARISTOCRACY OF CARRYING PERSONAL FIRE

Why Women Weren't Allowed to Smoke

In the beginning, when fire was discovered, it was discovered by a woman. Her name was Judy.

Judy discovered fire because she needed it. She needed it so that she could invent cherries jubilee and bananas flambe'.

More importantly, she thought the slow flicker of firelight would serve to further enhance romance between women who were equally suited to one another.

Firelight worked and households of women sprung up slowly until the hillsides were softly aglow with communities of women.

At this time, and for a very long time, men did not have fire. Since they did not know how to cook or love women, there was no need for men to have fire.

It was some centuries later when Doris - Judy's daughter - became Keeper of the Flame; Secretary of Fire.

Now Doris was the kind of secretary who liked to bowl and snap her gum. Doris liked a good time and it was during her Perpetual Festival of Life that fire got out of hand.

By the time Doris left the planet, no one remembered how it had been when women had had fire.

Only men had fire then and they guarded it so carefully that they even chopped and stacked the firewood. Men also did the hunting. But men, being men, never did learn how to cook.

Women still did the cooking so women could sit and stare, spending long hours gathered together around fires. They could watch the melancholy ballet the firelight created and try to spiritually retrieve what had been theirs to begin with.

With real fire all but a thing of the past thanks to the electric stove, a rash act was needed.

It was Doris' daughter Wanda who was happy to commit the rash act. Wanda lit a cigarette.

It was manners that taught Wanda what fire was all about. She noticed that no one looked aghast when a man lit her cigarette.

Wanda wanted her own fire. Soon, she was going out alone after dark. And then, one night when she went out for a walk, Wanda just kept walking.

Taking odd jobs along her way, Wanda didn't stay anywhere long. But everyday, at the end of the day, she would go to some high, open area where she knew everybody could see her, and smoke.

By this time Wanda was only smoking joints and she did so with pleasure while she watched the sun sink into chalky lavender twilight, happy with the fact that a match is still a flame in the dark.

D I D Y O U S E E ?

NATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE:

What is there to say, except fannn-tastic! What happened in Houston was more than worth the months of effort on the part of NGTF women...It was not merely the degree of lesbian involvement in the conference (and the state meetings leading up to it)...but the even more effective way in which lesbians participated. Perhaps most important, as Jean O'Leary affirms, was that so many lesbians participated openly. Women who for many years had been afraid of lesbians were finally able to meet them and engage in dialogue on their common goals.

COMING OUT: The Houston experience suggests a general theme that is worth repeating often: of all the things a lesbian or gay man might do to further the cause of gay equality and acceptance, probably nothing else has so immediate and long-term an impact as coming out to one's family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. It is easy to believe that homosexual men and women are freaks or monsters when you don't know any, but much harder to believe it of someone you already know, respect, and may even love...If every gay person in this country were to come out tomorrow, most overt discrimination would cease by the day after, and lingering prejudice would be forgotten in a decade.

Of course, we know that that is not going to happen, and we recognize that for many lesbians and gay men the risks attendant upon coming out--especially the economic ones--are still too great for them to take the step lightly. We do hope, however, that everyone who has not yet come out will keep reconsidering the possibility, for the benefits to oneself as well as to others are also great. For every "horror story" of a person who came out and had his or her life "ruined," at least temporarily, there are hundreds of cases of

(cont'd next column)

lesbians and gay men who found that the negative effects of coming out were nowhere near as bad as they had feared.

The decision to come out is a very personal and a very difficult one, and we respect whatever choice an individual may make. All we ask is that you at least think about this the next time you wonder, "But what can I do to make a difference?"

(NGTF Action Report)

NEW CONTROVERSY IN ENGLAND

A newspaper report in the London (England) Evening News about 10 births to different lesbian couples through artificial insemination has prompted angry response from several Conservative party lawmakers and a pro-gay sit-in at the newspaper. "To bring children into this world without a natural father is evil and selfish," stated Dr. Rhodes Boyson [Ed. note: Boy son?]. "This evil must stop for the sake of the potential children and society, which both have enough problems without the extension of this horrible practice." Meanwhile, two dozen men and women tossed a stink bomb into the editorial offices of the Evening News and demanded that the series of articles be terminated. The news editor promised to print their position in the paper but refused to end the series (from Metro Gay News)

BURTON, O. -- For 11 years Bonnie Huffman was a Franciscan nun. Today she worships something called the "mother force" as a member of the Dianic Order of Witches...the Order carries with it the belief in the inherent superiority of women and the necessity for a matriarchal society." (from front page story with picture-Cin'ti Post 2/28/78)

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BORN AGAIN CONSERVATIVES STRIKE !!!

The python of organized opposition to the Cincinnati Human Rights Ordinance made its poisonous strike on the gay community here in mid-April. Police crackdowns began in the public parks where 67 gay men were busted--for what is unclear. Most are reputed married with families. Two gay bars were shut down on Saturday April 15 because of police harassment. Paint stripper was smeared on the car owned by the Lesbian Activist Bureau president, Wendy Winkler, early on April 17. On the same day, the following vicious editorial appeared in the Cincinnati Enquirer. It serves well to put City Council on notice of where the power brokers stand with regard not only to gay rights but to the empowerment of racial minorities as well.

'GAY RIGHTS'

Police deserve public support in crackdown

THE WELCOME POLICE crackdown on homosexuals in Burnet Woods and Mt. Airy Forest comes as a powerful reminder this is not the time--nor Cincinnati the place--for an ordinance insuring "gay rights."

Clearly the city needs protection from, rather than any legitimacy attached to, the aberrant behavior of many homosexuals. The bike and hiking trails and picnic areas of the city's park system ought to be off-limits to those who would convert them into iniquitous dens.

Children may be especially offended by the spectacle--and perhaps even be the prey--of those who practice their "play" in the parks. We thus believe we represent the overwhelming sentiment of the community in expressing our gratitude for the crackdown by Cincinnati city and park police this early in the outdoor season.

We hope the courts back them to the hilt.

The park capers form a sad backdrop for the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission (HRC) effort for an ordinance that would deny employers, landlords and operators of public accommodations much discretion with respect to the "personal sexuality" of anyone with whom they deal. The proposed human-relations ordinance, in its draft form,

would not apply alone to homosexuals, of course. But the sexuality provision assuredly would receive most public protest--and deservedly so.

Relatedly, we believe City Council would be mistaken to extend the subpoena power to HRC, even under careful limitations to specific investigations. Certainly to confine such power to specific grants by City Council would be preferable to any *carte blanche* award. But even this limitation would set council off into uncharted and dangerous seas.

We respect council's need for objective investigations of sensitive, highly charged and emotional issues--as, for example, the one involving claims and counterclaims in the police wounding of a city garage employee. But we believe HRC's report in that case, citing what Police Chief Myron J. Leistler said were "speculations and allegations of people who didn't even witness the event," suggests the risks of any extension of subpoena power to it.

In short, we doubt HRC yet enjoys sufficient public support to make the community comfortable with its receipt of subpoena power. Wouldn't it be more proper--certainly more acceptable--for Cincinnati's elected City Council, its members accountable to the public, to appoint subcommittees of its own for special investigations when necessary? Concededly such an approach--common to Congress and state legislatures--would carry the risk of intrusive politics, but we believe this to be less a danger than arming an unelected agency with subpoena power.

April 20, Hitler's birthday, is the day slated for the infamous march of the Nazi Party through Skokie, Illinois, where thousands of Jewish refugees from World War 2 Nazi death camps have rebuilt their 'lives'. In the meantime, NBC's "The Holocaust" shows the stark brutality and terror of Hitler's reign so graphically that sensitive individuals are saying they cannot watch it. Not to watch, not to absorb it would be a serious and costly mistake. The program shows how necessary it is to FIGHT BACK. The lies, smear tactics, and intimidation used by the Nazis on the majority group are not impossible here. In fact, the Enquirer editorial so reeks of subtle fascism as to be terrifying.

In the meantime, the femicide of 13 year old Lisa Jansen, abducted and murdered on her way to school barely 2 weeks ago by a heterosexual killer goes unsolved and not commented on. So does the strangulation femicide of Cheryl Thompson, U.C. coed, whose body was found in a creek near Loveland. Editorial comment about these and a dozen other unsolved femicides in the past 2 years is strangely lacking from the Enquirer. Violent sex crimes against women obviously are not so serious as the innocent use of parks, bars, and private residences by lesbians and gay men. The shooting of 44 year old Joseph Thomas, a black city employee, by a policeman during working hours has been so whitewashed by the Enquirer as to make the policeman appear a hero whose civil rights have been violated by the authorized report done by the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission. Born again conservatives have no serious objections to rape, wife beating, shootings, and murder, since "obviously," the victims "asked for it." Born again conservatives also apparently have no objection to the epidemic of incest and sexual child abuse initiated by heterosexual men which is of nearly epidemic proportions in this country.

The Lesbian Activist Bureau calls on the entire homophile and liberal community in Cincinnati to stand up together against our common enemies. This is not a time to point fingers at the so-called mistakes of victims. This is not a time, for example, to question the cruising style of gay men or the so-called bad timing of the proponents of the human rights ordinance. This is not a time to suggest to any victim that her behavior or decorum was "out of line" and changing that would have made things better. Such thoughts and opinions are planted in our minds by the born again conservatives. The women who went to the national International Women's Year Conference knew who the common enemies were and succeeded by being united against them. Only that same strategy will work in Cincinnati.

Anita Bryant is said to be willing to come to Cincinnati on a moment's notice. Ginny Vida of the National Gay Task Force is scheduled to be here on May 11. LAB proposes a gay rights demonstration on that day.

In the meantime, PROTEST! Write and call City Council members and the local newspapers. Show them that human rights for all must be preserved or they are guaranteed for none. Organizations must send press releases immediately denouncing gestapo tactics. This is not a time to be soft. This is a time to stand up and bellow the people's outrage.

by Wendy Winkler

DINAH

MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE LESBIAN ACTIVIST BUREAU, INC.

APRIL, 1978

P.O. Box 24257, Cincinnati, OH 45224

Wendy Winkler, Editor

513/541-5132

DEL MARTIN ASKS FOR MONEY

Del Martin, celebrated lesbian feminist activist, fervently appealed to Cincinnati lesbians for money during her visit here. "It's your own skins at stake," she said at a potluck dinner at D.G.'s on March 10.

The occasion gave area lesbians several hours of rap time with Del who refers to herself as a "revolutionary reform lesbian feminist." While tuned in to wimmin's cultural revolution, Del puts emphasis on legislative changes, saying, "At my age, short term goals are important because I won't be around for the long term." (Other Del-isms will be sprinkled around DINAH this issue. They are too savory to be jammed into just one article.)

But what about the money? Del and Troy Perry, founder of the Metropolitan Community Church, are co-chairs of the Tri Cities National Defense Fund. The fund is in need of dollars fast. The reason?

DADE COUNTY HAS STRUCK AGAIN! IN APRIL AND MAY REFERENDUMS TO "TEST" GAY RIGHTS ORDINANCES ARE BEING HELD IN ST. PAUL, MINN.; EUGENE, ORE.; AND WICHITA, KANS. MONEY IS NEEDED FOR EDUCATION, PUBLICITY, AND ORGANIZING TO COUNTERACT THE FORCES OF ANITA AND COMPANY.

As Del said, "When you have the majority voting on the rights of the minority, you're in trouble."

At the potluck supper, we collected \$87.50 which wasn't bad for passing the hat on a Friday evening. However, much more money is needed. This is a chance for those who can't donate time but want to "do something;" this is a chance for them to give where it is much needed.

(continued on page 2)

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DEL & DOLLARS--Cont'd

Here is Del's statement of appeal for funds:

"As Jose Sarria used to say in the 50's: 'United we stand--divided they will pick us off one by one.' That's as true today as it was then. Now we have to fight to retain the hard won gains we've made. What happens in the Tri-Cities affects the civil rights of all Lesbians and gay men in America. Give generously. Dig deep into your pockets. It's your own skin at stake."

LAB urges all DINAH readers to give whatever they can to the Fund. REMEMBER: TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. Write that check now. The referendums are set for April 25 in St. Paul, May 9 in Wichita, and May 23 in Eugene.

Send donations--whatever you can afford--to TRI CITIES NATIONAL DEFENSE FUND, P.O. Box 3949, Hollywood, CA 90028.

DINAH DEADLINES

A reminder: The June issue of DINAH is scheduled to be our Summer Solstice Quarterly Issue. This is where we will print creative prose, political opinion, fiction and similar pieces. For that issue, DINAH will need more willing hands to get pieces typed, etc. The absolute deadline for such material is May 15.

DINAH would also like very much to have reports written by winmin who have attended the various conferences that have been taking place. Please give all the lesbian news from such conferences. In making such contributions you can use a pen name or no name if you are worried about your closet. (Remember: "Anonymous" was a woman.)

May's issue will be like this one--any news that gets in by the deadline of April 15 and probably some palaver from the editor.

Send your articles, etc., to DINAH, P.O. Box 24257, Cincinnati 45224.

WANT TO BE A MEMBER OF LAB? ONE WAY IS TO PLEDGE MONEY. ANOTHER WAY IS TO AGREE TO WORK ON A PROJECT. (Only lesbians can be members. Membership lists are kept confidential. Donations are welcome from all)

Yes, I want to be a pledge member of LAB. ☒ I can send \$
per month. ☒ Here is a lump sum of \$
Yes, I want to be a project member of LAB. ☒ Other:
I have an idea for a project and have attached a short description.
☒ I would like to help with the ongoing project of
☒ I don't have anything special in mind right now

LAB? What's LAB?

Name

Address

Phone

MIMEO FOR DINAH

At the March 19 LAB meeting, wimmin present voted to get a mimeograph machine for DINAH. One woman had come with descriptions of machines available, and general enthusiasm for a mimeo for the Cincinnati lesbian community was expressed.

We agreed to have a fundraiser, a "bigot"roast" in June. Sandie Garsey is heading up a committee to handle the venture and will soon have fliers available.

The mimeo would cost \$490. It was pointed out that if every person on DINAH's mailing list would contribute \$1.50, we would have enough to buy it. We will need seed money anyhow, so anyone who wants to donate can send it to DINAH MIMEO FUND, P.O. Box 24257, Cincinnati, OH 45224. By passing the hat at the LAB meeting, we were able to start the fund out with \$33.74.

TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Remember: All cash donations to LAB are now tax deductible--just like Church and the United Appeal. If you itemize deductions on your income tax, KEEP US IN MIND FOR 1978!

LAB COFFEES

LAB coffees have moved again. They are now being held at a home on Clifton Avenue. They are still held on Thursday evenings starting at 7:30. For directions, call 241-6316.

The new location is promised only for April, so please step forward if you can give your place for a month or 2. It's up to this lesbian community whether you really want the coffees to continue.

Many thanks to Marie, a fine lesbian sister, for opening her home weekly for 5 months to have the coffees. As of April, the coffees have been ongoing for 16 months.

(By the way, LAB would have to pay at least \$15 a night for a public place. Therefore this regular space donation by our sisters is much appreciated.)

WHILE WE'RE TALKING MONEY....

(we will make this tiny little pitch for your donations to DINAH. Some people call them subscriptions, but we call them donations and ask for \$3--more if you can, less if you can't--thank you)

M O V I N G ? PLEASE TAKE A MINUTE TO FILL OUT AND MAIL THE FOLLOWING:

Name _____

Old Address _____

New Address _____

Please include zip codes. SEND TO: LAB, P.O. Box 24257
Cincinnati, OH 45224

THE STATUS OF DINAH

The status of DINAH is just this---she is resting on one person's initiative again. That one person happens to be me, Wendy, and I am also handling calling the LAB meetings, answering the LAB correspondence, and keeping the LAB books.

This month I have made some changes in DINAH for two reasons. One reason is that I am really compulsive about organizing material into categories---little boxes, sort of. The other reason is that if DINAH can be broken down into categories, it will be easier to hand off a "piece" to someone else.

DINAH needs many kinds of tasks completed to come out in a timely fashion. Some of them are

- writing copy about current happenings (Someone besides me could have covered the Del Martin visit)
- collecting news from publications which come in from all over the country
- summarizing press releases and announcements
- writing creative copy of publishable quality
- updating the mailing list monthly
- retyping the entire mailing list every four months
- typing material on stencils
- getting someone to let us use a mimeograph to run DINAH off
- collating, sorting, and bundling
- delivering to the Post Office

There are wimmin who have expressed an interest in helping with DINAH. But, with a few wonderful exceptions, they have been passive. When needed, they have as often as not had other more pressing things to do. The most used excuse is that they want to have more time for personal life.

The problem is, so do I. The problem is sometimes I too have more pressing needs. In fact, I am taking a day of vacation from my job to get this done right now. To equalize my life, I need some folks who are willing to be responsible for some of the above. And that means responsible and disciplined from month to month, softball weather or blizzard, during a hot relationship or alone in the world. It also means work when we say we're going to work and not discussing personal lives, problems, etc. I also need wimmin to meet me half way at least. If I have to do all the planning, all the organizing, all the delivering of material to other hands, all the reminding, frankly it is easier to do it myself. Please meet me half way.

As for organization, my preference is for collective decision-making. However, as long as I am doing all the work, I am going to make all the decisions. As long as I am the only real activist in this venture, then I am the editor. It's really true that a person has to pay her dues, which I believe I have done. In particular for DINAH, my task mistress was Sandie Garsey, and she was strict.

I do not mean to offend in this article. I am just expressing my frustration because DINAH is late again. But if it doesn't bother anyone else, I can hang loose too. But I'd prefer something more.

NOW IS THE HOUR....

Now is the time that letters to Cincinnati City Council in support of the Human Rights Ordinance are imperative. Now is the time for every lesbian who has said she would like to do "something" to do it.

Letters to Council do not mean you must come out. They simply mean you support human rights to a job, housing, and public accommodations for all persons regardless of factors used traditionally to exclude and discriminate.

One popular letter from the March L&B meeting went like this:

DEAR COUNCILMEMBER

I AM WRITING TO URGE YOUR SUPPORT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS ORDINANCE.
I SUPPORT HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL, EVEN THOSE NOT OF MY SEXUAL PREFERENCE.
SINCERELY YOURS,

Of course, if you wish to identify yourself as a lesbian, that is extremely valuable in a special way. It's rather sad, but our councilmembers don't seem to know many of us at all. This in spite of the fact that if national statistics hold up in Cincinnati (that gays are between 4 and 10% of the general population) there are between 20,000 to 50,000 gay residents here. In addition, those of us who write as lesbians can speak for the silent multitudes in documenting the kinds of discrimination faced by lesbians and gay men.

The most important thing is to get those letters in. Council is counting noses on this one, and Frank Weikel has predicted a hot fight. Get all your friends, gay or straight, to write also.

WRITE TO: MAYOR GERALD SPRINGER, COUNCILMEMBERS BOBBIE STERNE, TOM BRUSH, GUY GUCKENBERGER, J. KENNETH BLACKWELL, JAMES LUKEN, T. X. Graham, DAVID MANN, AND WALTER BECKJORD, City Hall, 801 Plum St., Cincinnati, OH 45202.

To further help you, here, compliments of the National Gay Task Force, are famous people you can quote or paraphrase:

JIMMY CARTER: "I oppose all forms of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. As President, I can assure you that all policies of the federal government will reflect this commitment."

PAUL MOORE, Episcopal Bishop, New York: "While there is still much to do in securing full civil rights for racial minorities and women, a beginning needs to be made on behalf of homosexually oriented people who, until recently, have had very few who would speak on behalf of their civil rights."

MARGARET MEAD: "Gay men and women are an often abused group in our culture. This abuse is born of ignorance and misunderstanding. Those of us who are committed to human dignity have an obligation to do all that we can to put an end to it."

ARYEH NEIER, ACLU Executive Director: "It is a national disgrace that gays are consistently denied their rights to jobs, housing, privacy and equal protection of the laws. All Americans concerned with individual freedom--not just gays--ought to regard gay rights as their cause."

MOTHER'S DAY DEMONSTRATION

"New York Dykes & Tykes and the Seattle based Lesbian Mothers National Defense Fund are jointly calling on women throughout the country to hold demonstrations around Mother's Day, May 14, 1978.

"The purpose of the demonstrations is to demand an end to judicial attacks on lesbian mothers. The demonstrations will focus on custody battles and on the difficulties lesbian mothers face in supporting their families.

"These actions will mark the first time the issue of lesbian mothers is addressed nationally. We want to expose the blatant prejudice of the courts and to build public and vocal support for lesbian mothers.

"We see the growing attacks on lesbian mothers as part of an overall attack on our reproductive freedom and control over our own lives.

"We want the demonstrations to stress the link between the struggle against our oppression and those against sterilization abuse, abortion cutbacks, and the legal theft of Native American children. Our fight is a common fight and we need to build solidarity and understanding with each other."

The above paragraphs are from a press release jointly issued by LMNDF and Dykes and Tykes. These organizations are willing to coordinate the nationwide demonstrations and have an organizing packet available.

As far as LMB knows, no one is coordinating the effort in Cincinnati, and it needs to be done. This is a dynamite idea, one that could be coordinated with straight feminist organizations like NOW and which could do a lot to cement our ties with our straight sisters, gay brothers, and other concerned individuals.

Anyone who wants to organize, contact Wendy at 541-5132 immediately. Time is very short but not impossible. Also write or call Dykes & Tykes immediately.

For our out of city sisters, we make the same appeal. Make this effort a priority if at all possible. If you're east of Chicago, contact Dykes and Tykes. Wimin in Chicago and points west are to contact LMNDF.

Addresses and Phone	LESBIAN MOTHERS' NATIONAL DEFENSE FUND
Numbers are:	2446 Lorentz Pl. No. Seattle, Washington 98109
	(206) 282-5798
	DYKES & TYKES
	P.O. BOX 621, Old Chelsea Station, NYC, NY 10011
	(212) 788-5987

"Education is the name of the game. If we have a revolution and no one's head is turned around, all you are doing is changing the name of your oppressor." Del Martin

Commentary

OBSCENE PHONE CALLS

It happens every month or so, the phone call from a woman or man who has picked up your name and number and the fact that you are a lesbian. If she makes the call, she tells you she's bisexual and that she's very lonely for a woman -- hasn't had one in so-o-o long. If he makes the call, he tells you how he's straight but his wife is bi, wants to know if you're a lesbian for sure, and whether that means you don't like men. They're cruising and because you're a lesbian, they assume you're promiscuous and worth a try.

It's the old sex object Playboy mentality again with a new twist. This time you're not just game for him but for her too. At least they get to the point very quickly.

They want to get DINAH, they say, after finding out you're definitely not available for their personal games. You explain easily that DINAH is not a social magazine with the purpose of attracting swingers. To explain DINAH's main purposes of reaching out to lesbians in isolation, to provide some much needed laughs sometimes, to help build lesbian community, to educate ourselves and build lesbian pride--to attempt such openness is painful and practically impossible. So instead you mumble that DINAH's purpose is to promote lesbian rights. Sometimes they say they're interested in that too.

You're skeptical and you feel very used. How do you tell such people that DINAH is much more intimate than menage a trois arrangements, that you really don't want to share her with insensitive people, with people who don't speak the same language, think the same thoughts, live in the same reality as you do?

Such folks are difficult to deal with. But even so, they are not nearly so crass as that damnable photography studio that calls you every three months to offer you their new (and always the same) "Special"---cut rates on 3 8x10 color glossies: one of glamorous you alone, "Mrs. Winkler;" one of you and your darling baby; and one of you, your baby, and your husband.

I wish I could bill the people who invade my privacy by using my phone for their always heterosexually oriented sales pitches.

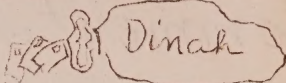
DEL-ISMS (as promised on page 1)

"Self Acceptance is the big thing we all have to struggle with. Once we have that together, anything can come down on us. No matter what they dish out, we know who we are."

(On cities receptive to lesbians and gay men and how great San Francisco is, etc., etc.) "SAN FRANCISCO WAS ZILCH IN THE 1950'S. THE DIFFERENCE IS ORGANIZING. GAYS ORGANIZED IN SAN FRANCISCO."

"I am a person, a woman, and a lesbian in that order. But when I or you speak publicly it has to be primarily as a lesbian. We try to explain that we are also women and persons. But they won't hear it at first, so we have to say it again and again."

DINAH'S MAIL BAG



Golly!

You don't know---let me tell ya---
how good it is to see DINAH again
(missed you damn it)

FANTASTIC It's like a hit of
speed & a nice, warm feeling!
WENDY, SANDIE, BROOK, CAROLYN,
DEBBIE A., ELLEN, DEBBIE X, MARY---
if I see you at the August Music
Festival, expect an affectionate
hello.

Yay Rah DINAH & her tax exempt
status--I know it's very difficult
--but you're so stubborn--so
womynlike

Strength & Springtime,
Candy, Indianapolis

Dear Sisters at DINAH,

I really enjoy reading about
happenings in my old home town.
Here's some green to help you
keep on.

I don't know if you're send-
ing a copy of DINAH to the LEAPING
LESBIAN newsletter, but this is
its current address: P.O. Box 7715,
Ann Arbor, MI 48107.

Thanks,
Maryhelen Hibbon
Ann Arbor

Dear DINAH publishers:

I am very interested in
receiving your publication. Be-
cause I am a college student of
lower income, I cannot contribute
to your organization, but plan
to do so later. Please send your
publication inside an envelope.
I wish it to remain unnoticed to
others.

Thank you!
Name Withheld

Dear Sandie,

Well, I guess an apology for a
late reply is simply not in order
if that reply is 8 months late,
but here it is, anyway.

And here also is a copy of GAILA'S
GUIDE-1978--I hope that you enjoy
it. You are on page 231.

Now to those question of yours
(the first of their kind that I
have ever had):

How did I get organized?--GAILA'S
GUIDE began as a hobby.

Roadblocks: When GAILA'S GUIDE-
1974 first happened, there was
hardly any scene at all and
practically no places in which
to advertise it. There were also
no movement printers and sabotage
was (and still sometimes is) a
big problem with the production
side of it.

Distribution: 10,000 with the
1978 edition--probably about
13,000-15,000 with the 1979.

Profit or non-profit?--I hope
to make some money iwth it start-
ing with this edition but so far
it's mostly been a matter of
investing and re-investing.

Support and feedback?--Absolutely
tremendous.

I live in England, that's the
only significance of GAILA'S GUIDE
having originated in England.
I am an American, from San
Francisco, but I live in Europe
permanently. GAILA'S GUIDE is
not produced by a group but I
write, edit and publish it.
Basically it's printed by my own
press facilities here in London.
I have an assistant who helps
with typing, etc.

(cont'd on p. 9)

DINAH'S MAIL BAG (cont'd)

(from page 8)

I share your interest in encouraging other Lesbians to think along building lines and hope that this has been of some help to you.

I also hope that you will help me out with some local information for my 1979 edition. I'm especially interested in the bar and club scene in Cincinnati and other areas with which you might be familiar. May I list you "L.A.B." as a good source for local information?

My information deadline is April 1, 1978 and I do hope to hear from you before then and remain,

Yours sincerely,
Sandy Horn
London, England

Dear qqq:

Saw the announcement in ALBATROSS and have enclosed my check for \$5 for a years' sub. If that isn't enough, let me know and I'll send the balance.

Saw a copy of DINAH last spring while we were in Cleveland and it looked interesting. I meant to subscribe then, but it was the first stop of a 6 week tour and by the time we got home it slipped my mind.

So anyway, lots of luck etc. Thanks for your attention, and I look forward to reading DINAH. Take care.

xx Alix Dobkin
Preston Hollow, New York

From the editor,

What can we say but that it is truly wonderful to receive such supportive mail from all over. This is not all the mail we have received recently, but it represents letters we felt the senders would feel OK about if we printed them. We would like to continue the DINAH's Mail Bag feature. This means that if your letter is of general interest, we'd like to have the option to print it unless you indicate otherwise. We'd also like to have the option of printing parts of letters and editing out parts which may be too personal or not of general interest. Of course, if you write a letter to the Mail Bag, we'll know you'd like it published.

Thanks again to the sisters who have taken time to send an encouraging note such as the above. It adds fuel to the pump and keeps the sister energy flowing.

"When all oppressed groups can identify with each other and form a coalition, we will be the majority." Del Martin

"For lesbians to become unified we have to recognize our diversity and accept it..."
Del Martin

COMING EVENTS

(sorry for those we missed because of late DINAH)

The KENT GAY LIBERATION FRONT is holding its annual Weekend Workshops on April 21-23 in Room 206 of the Kent State Student Center. Rita Mae Brown on Friday, Brian McNaught on Saturday are featured speakers. Workshops and women's/men's parties on Saturday. Meeting of Ohio Gay Rights Coalition on Sunday. No registration fee, but donations gladly accepted. KGLF Will look for free housing for those with sleeping bags. Inexpensive housing (\$9 single, \$7 double) available at Korb Guest House, Kent State University, Kent, OH 44242 (216-678-3550)

THE WOMEN'S PROJECT--WINE, WOMEN AND SONG--WOMEN'S DINNER/CONCERTS

April 19--Myrtle Bailey: Gospel, jazz and blues

May 17--Maggie Kelly: Traditional and Appalachian folk music with dulcimer, auto harp, guitar

Dinner and Concert--\$6.50
Students --\$5.00
Reservations 24 hours in advance; call 683-2340
Vegetarian meals available

Grailville, Loveland, OH 45140

(This project had Diana Porter, Annie Dinerman, and Therese Edell in Jan., Feb., Mar. DINAH got the listing too late to include previously which is too bad!)

GAY PRIDE RALLY ON FOUNTAIN SQUARE--June 24--Sandie Garsey of LAB is organizing this event and a fundraiser afterward. Project workers needed. Call Sandie at 751-0557.

TERESA DAVIS (formerly of River City Womn) will present an evening of primal percussion at Mother's Brew in Louisville on May 6. Tickets are \$2.50 in advance, \$3.00 at the door. Womn only. Mother's Brew, 204 W. Market, Louisville. 582-9758. Advance tickets available on limited basis from Wendy.

OTHER FEATURED ACTS AT MOTHER'S BREW "Bringing Womn's Music from across the Country to Louisville"

April 21--Baba Yaga--7 womn playing Latin, jazz and funk
April 29--Reel World String Band--womn's band from Lexington
May 5--Derby Eve--Woody Simmons & Nancy Vogl--from tender melodies to banjo picking
May 13--Reel World String Band

VIVECA LINDFORS and SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK will be featured at the Taft Theatre in Cincinnati on May 4. Tickets are \$8.00; proceeds go for the ERA.

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters who moved their national conference May 1 - 5 from Chicago to Cincinnati because of Illinois' failure to ratify the ERA.

Ticket orders should be sent with self addressed stamped envelope and check made out to LWV-ERA fund (\$8/ticket) to Jean Duston, Coordinator, 81 Maurice Place, Perrysburg, OH 43551.

RESOURCES FOR CINCINNATI AREA LESBIANS

Because the needs of lesbians are as diverse as we are, DINAH is beginning this issue a listing of various ongoing lesbian, gay and feminist resources which we hope our readers will find useful. We are indebted to the Greater Cincinnati Gay Coalition for gathering much of this material which we have cheerfully ripped off, knowing that their intentions and ours coincide in this matter. We invite them to use our material as well, and we invite readers to send us information on other resources of which we may not be aware.

LESBIAN ACTIVIST BUREAU, INC.

ongoing coffees, publication

Write: LAB

P.O. Box 24257

Cincinnati, OH 45224

Call: for coffees only: 241-6316

otherwise: 541-5132

DIGNITY

For Gay Catholics and friends

Write: DIGNITY

P.O. Box 983

Cincinnati, OH 45201

Phone: 621-4026

LESBIAN LINE

lesbian peer phone support and counseling by trained counselors
c/o Women Helping Women

Write: LL/WHW

9th and Walnut

Cincinnati, OH 45202

Phone: 381-5610 24 hours

"GAYDREAMS" WAIF-FM

radio magazine for the gay community
every Sunday 3-4 pm. Volunteers
needed

Write: John Zaye

WAIF-FM

2525 Victory Pkwy.

Cincinnati, OH 45206

Phone: 981-8900

TRANSACTIONAL ANALYSIS FOR
LESBIANS

TA groups available from trained
lesbian group leaders. Under-
stand your games, rackets, and
scripts. Learn how to improve
your relationships and get your
needs met.

Write: Barb c/o Lesbian

Activist Bureau

Phone: Barb 541-5421

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Christian church with outreach to
the homophile community

Address: 65 E. Hollister

Cincinnati, OH 45219

Phone: 241-8216

INTEGRITY

For Gay Episcopalians and friends

Write: P.O. Box 15263

Cincinnati, OH 45215

Phone: 522-4068

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN
N.O.W. TASK FORCE

Feminist activist organization
with lesbianism and sexuality
task force

Write: NOW

P.O. Box 3447

Cincinnati, OH 45201

Phone: Penny 241-6316

GAY ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS & ALANON

group support for gay alcoholics
and concerned friends

Phone: Lee 381-2328

GAY SPORTS CLUB FORMING

gay physical fitness enthusiasts
are urged to write: Lambda

Sports, c/o P.O. Box 3457,

Cincinnati, OH 45201

LAVENDER HORIZON HOLIDAYS

wimmin only vacation trips

planned year round.

Write: P.O. Box 631, Midtown Station

New York, NY 10018

Phone: (212) 896-4819

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

One of the really fun parts of working with DINAH is our exchange with other publications. Listed here are most of them (the ones we could find!) DINAH recommends you inquire about any and all that fit your needs.

ALBATROSS--"The Lesbianfeminist Satire Magazine." Quarterly.

Sometimes refreshing, sometimes outrageous, nothing sacred. Much humor including Phyllis Shitfly and Betty Frypan conix. \$1.50 single issue, \$7.00 year. Box 2046, Central Station, East Orange, NJ 07019

BIG MAMA RAG--"A Women's Journal," monthly out of Denver. Feminist and lesbian feminist news, features, reviews. Good on multiply oppressed wimmin. Mainly Denver and Southwest news but a fair portion is national/international. Single issue 50¢ Colorado, 55¢ elsewhere. Individual subscriptions \$6/year. Free to wimmin in prisons or mental institutions. 1724 Gaylord, Denver, CO 80206GAIA'S GUIDE, 1978 (5th edition)--\$7.00 Pocket size book listing and description of organizations, women's centers, switchboards, bars, restaurants, and other resources for lesbians throughout the U.S. and in 39 other countries. Introduction in English, German, and Dutch. 115 New Montgomery Street, San Francisco, CA 94105GAY COMMUNITY NEWS--Weekly Newspaper 35¢ single issue, \$15.00 year. National as well as local (Boston and New England) coverage. News very current. All viewpoints included. One of the best. 22 Bromfield St., Boston, MA 02108THE LEAPING LESBIAN--Monthly Mimeographed Magazine out of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Strong lesbian feminist content. Sound analysis and creative thinking. Free to lesbians but donations are always needed and welcome. Box 7715, Ann Arbor, MI 48107. (313) 763-4186.LESBIAN CONNECTION--Monthly publication whose major purpose is to "connect" lesbians across the country through news, letters, resources, "contact dykes" and community profiles. Highly diverse content contributed almost entirely by readers. Suggested donation \$1 issue, \$8 year ("more if you can, less if you can't"). Ambitious Amazons, P.O. Box 811, E. Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 371-5257THE LESBIAN FEMINIST--Newsletter of Lesbian Feminist Liberation in New York City. Geared toward the East. \$5.00 (more if you can, less if you can't) 243 W. 20th St., New York City 10011 (212) 691-5460

(continued on p. 13)

MATRICES--"A Lesbian/Feminist Research Newsletter." New publication to provide continuous dialogue and information exchange for Lesbian/Feminist researchers working in the community and academia. Information on conferences and calls for papers, current research, and other items of interest. To get on the mailing list write to: Julia P. Stanley, Department of English, University of Nebraska -Lincoln, Lincoln, NB 68588

METRO GAY NEWS--Monthly Newspaper out of Detroit "Serving Michigan and Surrounding Communities." 50¢ single issue. P.O. Box 445-A, Detroit, MI 48232 (313) 956-7423

OFF OUR BACKS--"A Women's News Journal" out of Washington, D.C. News, In Depth Analysis, reviews. Provocative, feminist, fairly militant. 60¢ issue, \$6 year. 1724 20th St. N.W., Washington, DC 20009

POINT BLANK TIMES--"A Lesbian/Feminist Publication," every 2 months, out of Houston. Mainly Texas and southern but some national news. Opinion, features, reviews. 50¢ issue, \$5 year. P.O. Box 1463, Houston, TX 77021

RUBYFRUIT READER--"A Lesbian Communique" out of Santa Cruz. Commentary, winnin's culture, poetry. 35¢ issue or free, \$3 for 6 issues. Box 2386, Santa Cruz, CA 95963

WOMEN'S NETWORK--"Edited by Dorothy Feola, Written by You--Women Only" 50¢ issue. New publication out of the Bronx, welcomes submissions including poetry. 2137 Quimby Ave., Bronx, NY 10473.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DEL & PHYLLIS

Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon celebrated their 25th Anniversary on Valentines Day. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors gave them a certificate praising them for their years of community service. (This was not without discussion where one Supervisor objected to glorifying "it" but the vote was 8 to 2 for Phyllis and Del.)

They had a 2-day open house attended by 250-400 people including the press, members of the Board of Supervisors, old time DOB members, a state senator and many friends. The mayor of San Francisco phoned his congratulations.

HOW MANY LESBIAN CENTERS ARE THERE??????????

Del Martin says she knows of only 3 lesbian centers in the country--ALFA in Atlanta, LEU in Louisville, and Helen Diner Memorial Center (of the Ambitious Amazons) in East Lansing. To her knowledge, all other centers are Women's Centers (and include non lesbians).

Are there others? DINAH really wants to know. The information is vital to the esteem of midwest and southern lesbians.

Send clues and other information to DINAH WANTS TO KNOW SURVEY, P.O. Box 24257, Cincinnati, OH 45224.

Fantasy & Humor

In the inimitable tradition of lesbian resourcefulness, DINAH has reserved this space just for you so you can invent your own special individualized fantasy. You may write it, speak it, sing it, or even just dream it. But we do gently suggest that you do it -- just for you.

(If you wish to share your fantasy, send it in a special magic envelope to DINAH FANTASY & HUMOR, P.O. Box 24257, Cincinnati, OH 45224)

Smorgasbord

(Smorgasbord is a tasty variety--bits of this and that, last minute goodies too vital to pass up, leftovers, and servings to accommodate those who missed or ignored DINAH's absolute deadlines.)

GINNY VIDA IS COMING TO TOWN

If that sounds as though it could be hummed to a familiar tune beginning with "Santa Claus is co..." it's no surprise. In many ways Ginny Vida has provided gifts to lesbians at least as valuable as that mythical big daddy of the December dole. Yes, Santa, there is a Virginia.

She's coming courtesy of the Women's Center at U.C. on May 11. She will be speaking at Tangeman Center, Room 402 at 7:30 p.m. on the struggle for Gay Rights Today.

But she'll be arriving in the morning, so those who are free may want to meet with her. Call the W.C. at 475-3967.

In case some readers can't quite "place her," Ginny is the editor of the new bestseller Our Right to Love; A Lesbian Resource Book (No kidding about the best seller part. When your editor got a yen for the book on her lunch hour on March 16, both Walden's and the Book Market downtown were sold out.)

Ginny is also the media coordinator for the National Gay Task Force and has worked hard with network TV executives to improve gay portrayals on the tube.

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE AT U.C.

Included with this DINAH is a flier describing the May 20 2nd Annual Women's Rights Conference at U.C. Wendy Winkler of LAB will be on a panel in the morning addressing the topic, "We Are Your Sisters." In the afternoon, Dee Graham and Edna Rawlings will have a workshop about their research on lesbian mother custody. Rumor has it that Debbie Arapa will be doing another lesbian workshop (Obviously the ed. has not yet seen the flier.) At any rate many thanks to Janet Fay and others who kept administrators at U.C. "honest" about presenting lesbian concerns.

LAVENDER HORIZON HOLIDAYS

This group deserves more than the cursory mention given under "Resources" (p.11) Some really exciting trips are being planned. For example, "Sappho II," a cruise of the Virgin Islands with an all wimmin crew departs May 6, June 10, July 29, August 19. \$699 per woman covers total cost of air fare from N.Y. to St. Thomas, 8 days & 7 nights on board, all meals and beverages, instruction and equipment for scuba diving, snorkeling, water skiing, fishing. Plus special Lavender Horizon T-shirt. How can you miss? See p. 11 for the address and phone.

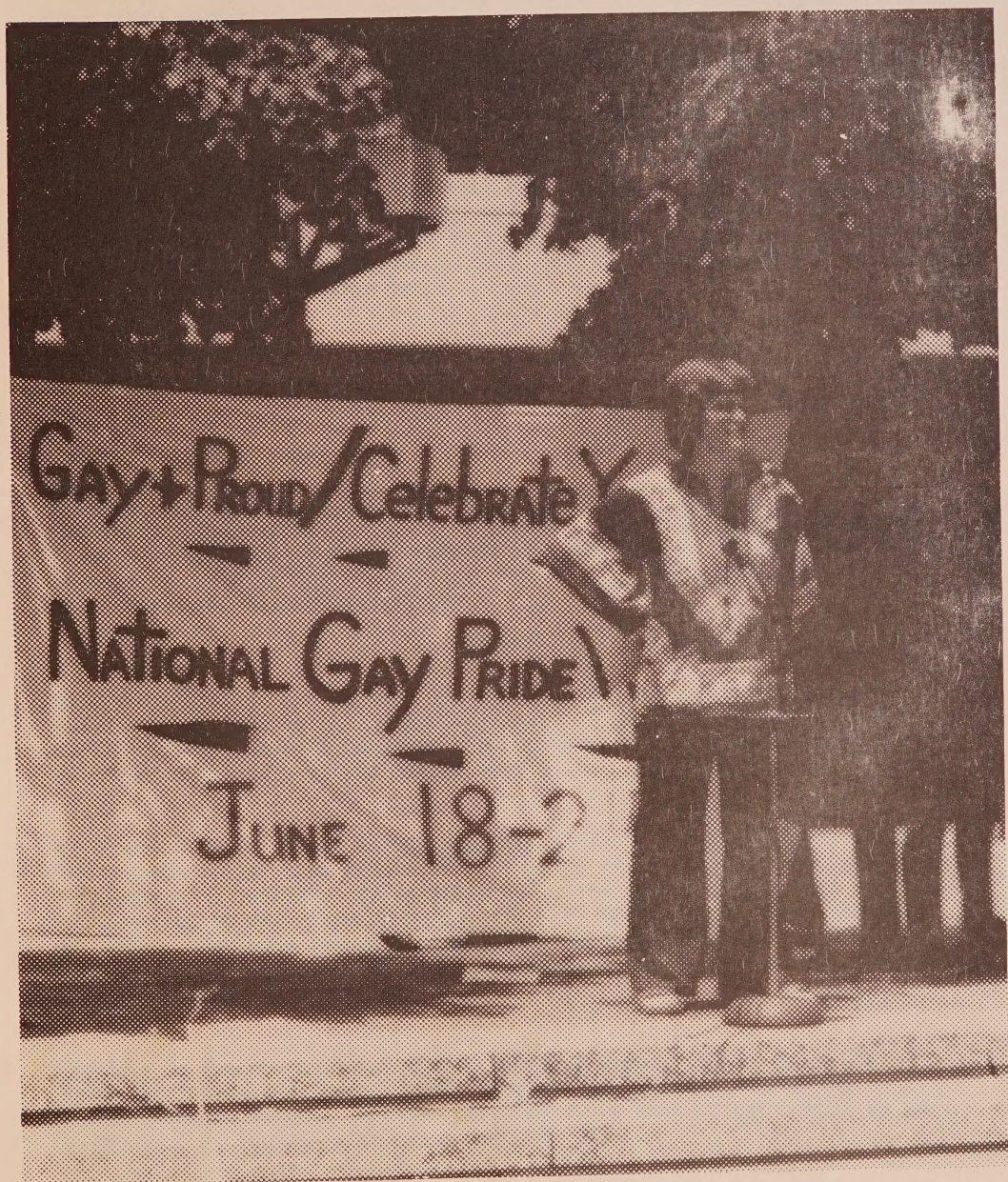
AL SCHOTTELKOTTE OF CHANNEL 9 RAN A VIEWER POLL ON MARCH 20 (Spring Equinox) IN WHICH 54% OF THOSE POLLED SAID THEY WOULD VOTE FOR A CINCINNATI HUMAN RIGHTS ORDINANCE INCLUDING SEXUAL PREFERENCE. BUT ON APRIL 14, GAY MEN WERE BUSTED IN THE PARKS.

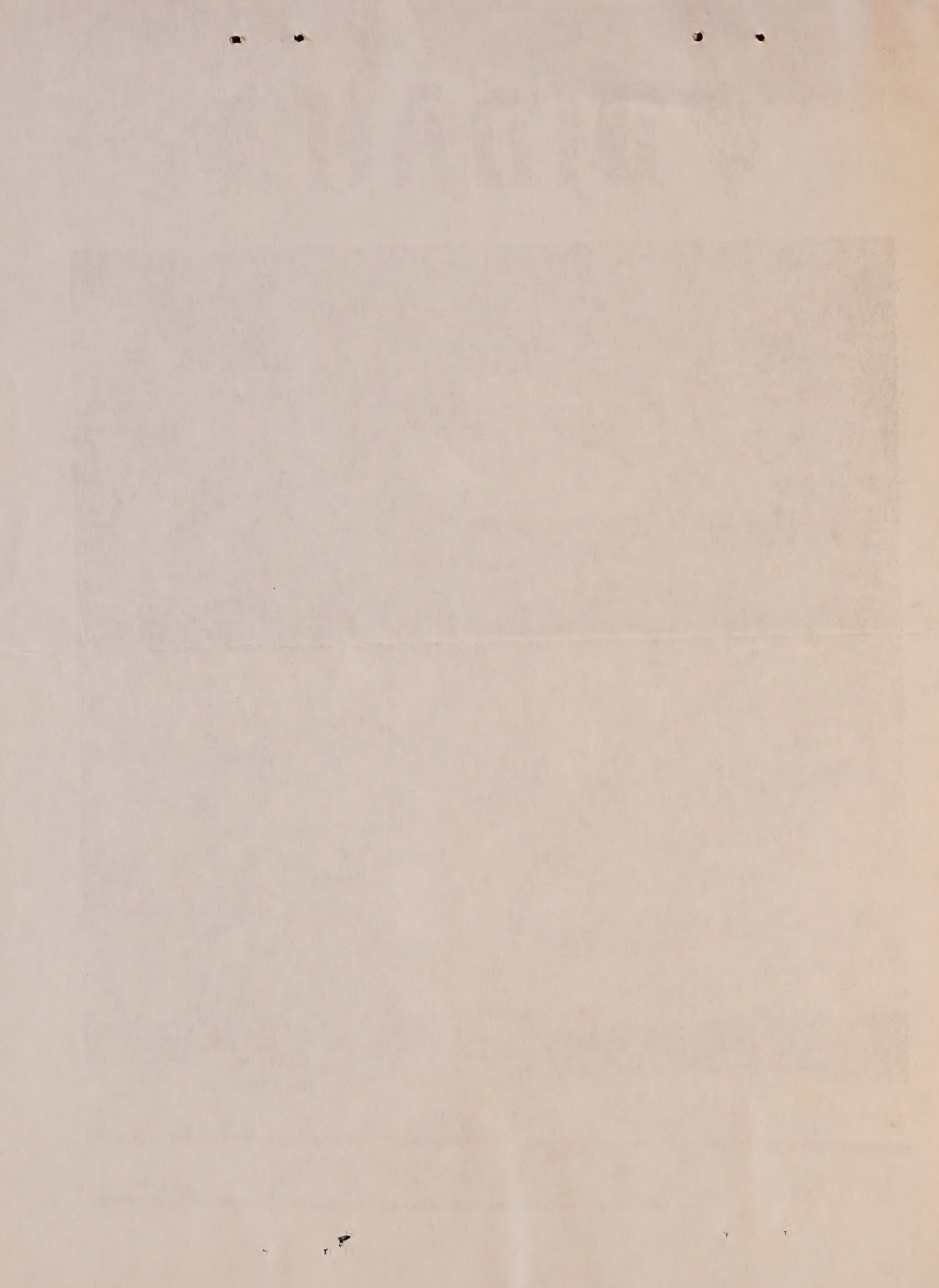
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DIDAH





Dear DINAH readers,

Happy Fall Equinox! We, the new writers and editors of DINAH, are happy to get this issue to you at the beginning of autumn. We have put a lot of effort into making this issue a good one -- one that Wendy and Sandie and all of you will be proud of. Our creative energy has been at such a high level, and having the new duplicating machine just in time for this issue made it especially worthwhile. Many thanks to the anonymous donors who made this duplicator a reality, and to Ellen P., who purchased it at a reduced price. Our format and style will vary over the next few months as we experiment, so please let us know what you like and don't like. So -- here's DINAH -- enjoy her!

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EDITORIAL POLICY: The editors of DINAH reserve the right to edit any material submitted to us for publication. If you feel your article or letter has been unjustly changed, let us know. We will be happy to print the original along with the edited version.

WRITERS & OTHERS - Don't forget that all material for the October issue of DINAH needs to be in by October 5 (or by the first Thursday of every month for successive issues). Bring articles to the Coffee at the YWCA on Thursday evening, or mail them to DINAH, c/o LAB, PO Box 24257, Cincinnati, OH 45224. ANYTHING (except confirmation of Anita Bryant's conversion to lesbianism) coming after the first Thursday of the month will go in the following issue. Thanks.

THANKS - To the new editors (Phebe, Holly, & Emma), to the womyn who worked on this issue (Donna, Joan, Mary, Ellen, Oshin), and to the printers and collators. We need help the third week of each month to get DINAH out. If you're interested, call 281-2437.

DINAH THROUGH THE YEARS

(Editor's note: The following account was written by Sandie Garsey, founder of DINAH. May we always remember our herstory!)

In November 1974 at an Ohio NOW state conference in Toledo, I stood up to read a resolution creating a state task force on sexuality and lesbianism. Unfortunately, the only Robert's Rule of Order I knew was the one my cousin Judy Roberts had about killing all the snakes around her house. I soon found out that there's more to parliamentary procedure than how to proceed in the parlour with a woman. Three other womyn, Wendy, Pat F., Mary Ellen F., addressed the chair, the floor, and the ceiling to insure the resolution was voted in. It was then I found out I had volunteered for more than reading a resolution and was now a state task force coordinator.

All I had to start with was a few years in the closet, a few nights on the town, and a mailing list of 28 brave womyn willing to be lesbian listed. I worked blithely in ignorance, which allowed me to accomplish a great deal until I learned how hard people make it to accomplish a good deal. I began with the mailing list and my writing skills, which had been finely honed as an English teacher unemployed in my field working as a machinery company secretary creating short masterpieces of "Dear Sir: The literature you requested is enclosed."

An interesting phenomenon of a woman at a typewriter is that when she's clicking away industriously at a speed of 75 words per minute everybody assumes she's working like hell, invaluable to the company, and no questions asked. I created that illusion by constantly working on DINAH while at the company. I put out a newsletter as frequently as every week, but definitely every other week.

One rule from the beginning was to scrape up a laugh no matter what because we ought to be living up to our gay name, and laughter is a strength giver. But my humor was soon to smack me up against the Teeter Totter Rule of Organizing -- people are more vocal in criticism than in support; and just when you start getting high, someone will bring you down. I had thought it would be fun to repeat a People magazine speculation that Debbie Reynolds and the late Agnes Moorhead had been lovers. Immediately a woman called, greatly heated that I would print such an item, finding it more offensive that it was in a lesbian newsletter (with a mailing list of 28) -- as though it had more credence there than in People, with a readership of millions. Fortunately, I received the other end of the Totter when Sandy from eastern Ohio and Margie Robertson from Cincinnati provided some beautiful support. So I continued to struggle with learning the foreign art of organizing.

Meanwhile, the machinery company made invaluable contributions to lesbian rights in the way of xerox copies and postage. Unfortunately, I could never thank them without also bringing it to their attention. The mailing list grew to 100 in a couple of months. Since the acronym for the group was FOSAL (Task Force on Sexuality and Lesbianism), the newsletter was called Fosaletter for awhile, and then I couldn't resist the pun -- Fosal's DINAH SOAR NEWS. We even tried to hold the annual Dinah Soar Golf and Camp Out picnic for awhile. And then it became DINAH.

My first dreams of owning my own mimeo or xerox came into being in those first months while I worked in fear that I'd leave something in the copier and would make 16 trips back to check. Or, worse yet, that it would break down with some of my pages unreachable inside except to the repairer. During all this time the company, impressed with my obvious hard work (which they never saw the results of), gave me a raise. But then someone in the company thought too many people were using the

(continued next page)

copier for personal stuff, and a new policy went into effect limiting its use and shutting down that option for printing DINAH.

DINAH was never an actual part of the NOW Task Force in that she was really my creation into which I began pouring my own money to have her printed at a Quickprint, while pleading for donations from a mailing list of now 200. It was at this time the economics made DINAH a monthly. A few wonderful womyn came through and contributed enough to cover a monthly issue of DINAH; in particular Margie Robertson and Jayne Weideman paid for full printing and postage for two issues.

I also asked for written contributions and learned two interesting facts. One is that there are a lot of lesbians who write rotten poetry. And that lesbians should be working hard on writing prose which is desperately needed. In order to get around the rotten poetry, DINAH's first policy went into effect -- no poetry while I was editor. It saved me from having to hurt a lot of womyn's feelings and also saved me from having to read some bad material.

DINAH moved with me to Cincinnati and once again I went searching for a cheap way of getting her printed. We couldn't keep up the Quickprint runs on the money that I had or the money that was coming in. Wendy then began pouring her money into DINAH, too. Penny, a newly emerging sister, bravely allowed us to use a mimeo in a university office where she worked. There we'd be late at night running off Cincinnati NOW's newsletter and DINAH, always worried about someone walking in and there would go Penny's job, carrying out all the trash, checks and triple checks before leaving, and always a slight lurch in the stomach when finally locking up the door, praying to the goddess we had everything.

And then Penny left her job to do other things and once again I was searching for a place to run DINAH off, with never enough money for our own equipment. Roxanne and Mary worked at Northern Kentucky's Rape Crisis Center, which had a lovely brand new mimeo and, once again, I was sneaking in with stencils and papers at varying hours of the day and night, running off copies for a mailing list that sometimes numbered 400. The mimeo was beautiful, except that the Center didn't have the funds yet for a service contract; and sometimes I was using masking tape to keep it going.

I had my nervous breakdown around the time of the Dade County vote. Ohio's IWY Conference was coming up that weekend and I had plans to run off 4,000 packets (10 pages) of lesbian material to hand out. Just a few days before, I'd run off 350 DINAH's of 24 pages. I woke to find the house had been egged in reaction to Dade County. So in the middle of running off 40,000 copies, I was writing a press release for Penny to take to papers and stations, making calls to radios, and taking breaks to be interviewed.

One TV station said there had been reactions to Dade County across the country with thousands marching in San Francisco (showing the thousands marching) and in Cincinnati -- followed with an interview with ink-covered-me, where I was called Sadie Greasey.

After that day, ending late at night, carrying out my boxes of copies and bags of trash, I realized I had reached a crisis. Roxanne had moved on from the Center a couple of months before, and I was soon to learn that Mary was going to be leaving -- which that once again we'd need to find somewhere to run off DINAH. I'd reached my mimeo saturation point.

I went blank -- both as an editor and writer. Nothing was funny. I couldn't
(continued)

finish the Bionic Butch in the Veiled Threat of the Harem. I couldn't keep DINAH going. Fortunately, humor was discovered in the brilliant writing of Debbie Arapa, who continually amazes and impresses me with her writing. She agreed to contribute to DINAH and edit an issue or two. And marvelous Wendy assumed major editing, writing, and publishing roles, also. I collapsed, leaving DINAH in good hands. A professor at a university came through with arrangements for DINAH to be printed on a mimeo in her office. Now others had to sneak in and out at odd hours. The last DINAH you received was held up for hours while the womyn (Wendy, Phebe, D., Joan S., Donna, Sue, and Maggie) waited for a male colleague of the professor's to leave the building; and the printing did not get finished until after midnight.

Now that Wendy, too, is withdrawing, DINAH goes to other womyn and becomes even more distant from me -- and I wonder what changes I'll see in her. The womyn are selling DINAH t-shirts to make money for a LAB mimeo on which to run DINAH off, and I understand that recently two lesbians made large enough donations to insure the mimeo purchase would come about with the help of t-shirt sales. The hassles that I and others had to put up with in printing her gave us a strong commitment to her when facing all the perils we had. Most publications last about two years. DINAH will be four in a couple of months. And I worry that now that she's more distant from me, others won't come along to sustain her, and that the hassles (though greatly lessened with a mimeo) will still be too discouraging for those who haven't grown with her.

You see, I know that DINAH actually saved a life by reaching an isolated lesbian just at her time of great despair and helped her through that crisis. I know that DINAH has been that life line to others living in isolation in the country and in cities. She's helped womyn through divorces, provided information to combat child custody cases, shown lesbians where and when to make contact with others, told them about resources, music, books, and publications that have led them to knowledge, groups, and community. She's told them where to find counseling, or told them about local weekly gatherings and other events. She's provided herstory stories. She's helped more than a few find the courage to face family and friends in coming out by assuring them that there are lesbians there to help. She's told the lonely they don't have to be alone. And she's shared joy, laughter, and celebration in lesbianism.

I was going to write to those who will now work on DINAH, sharing my fears about what they'll print (rotten lesbian poetry) or what they won't print (humor); but then I realized that in her own way DINAH will more than hold her own. She'll be the challenge and the teacher and they will learn from working with her what will be good and work and reach lesbians, and what won't be good and won't work. They'll learn that as much as they'd like to print everyone's contributions untouched, DINAH won't let them and will force them to be editors and maintain her spirit and quality. She'll let them know that not everything is worthwhile to be printed, not everything is of interest because one reader is interested, and not everything is well written simply because a lesbian wrote it. DINAH will tell them about the hundreds on the mailing list and the needs to reach them. So they'll begin selecting, rewriting, and searching for the very best. She taught me and now she'll teach others. Most of all, she'll tell them that she was born from a lesbian and raised by lesbians -- and that's her essence and her core.

So my only advice is that they grab every scrap and bit of writing from marlena gardenia (Debbie Arapa), who writes incredibly, excitingly, and brilliantly; that they welcome any contributions from that fine warrior, Wendy. And as DINAH's longest sister, if I should ever finish the Bionic Butch, I hope that it will be considered for publication. DINAH will let you know if it's good enough or not.

DINAH - THE ULTIMATE T-SHIRT

Now that the summer rush is over it's time to settle back and complete your fall wardrobe. Avoid the crowds at "Giddings," shop at home. Pick up your Bic and put Abe Lincoln in an envelope and send it off to the fashion spot in town--L.A.B.

When you put DINAH on your chest you're ready for classes with the masses, burgers at castille de blanche, or disco mania. And you can't CHARGE YOUR DINAH T-SHIRT on any card--not Visa or Lane Bryant or American Express. So you'll never get a nasty bill or service charge.

The DINAH shirt is in tasteful white with a super graphic in lavender (what else) of a woman with flowing hair. Rummage in your mag rack or under your bed and find your copy of the summer DINAH issue and there on the cover will be the picture of your new shirt, neat, huh! The design was done by a wonderful local artist Mary David.

The shirts are \$5.00 and may be purchased at the coffees and at all L.A.B. functions and at the corner from the back of a white pickup truck. Mail orders are \$5.75 and will be gladly gift-wrapped in plain brown wrapper and maybe we'll draw a flower or two on it. The \$5.75 price applies to all orders in the old US of A but if we get an order, come to think of it, from out of the country we will probably be so excited we'll send it to you for the same price.

They come, like us, in small, medium, large, and X-large. Write orders to L.A.B., P.O. Box 24257, Cincinnati, OH 45224.

'Member L.A.B. is selling da' shirts for da' mimeo fund.

D.R.D.

womyn's music in cincinnati - one woman's view,

peggy wolf

last year's michigan womyn's music festival was the beginning of a new person in me. i turned around and felt reins of power in my hands. though i had been a lesbian feminist for a while, it was the festival that showed me the most overwhelming constant joy i have ever known. i realised being with womyn -- in work, in music, in the elements, in celebration of womyn -- inspires the tools in my soul to create, to learn, to heal. i knew after michigan i had never been so altogether happy.

the next fall winter and spring were spent in a frozen wasteland -- both internally and externally. during those months i lived in london, dreading everything about my situation there. not a moment went by when i was not conscious of the strength of womyn's community and my need to be part of it again. i came home from england in time for the national womyn's music festival at champaign, illinois. another hit of womyn singing to womyn was all i needed. i was there with gini edwards and we were both struck with the same flash of magic. we had to get together with womyn in cincinnati and unleash this inspiration to build community and find the interest and knowledge in womyn just waiting to be realised. two mediums through which we considered doing this were a womyn's coffeehouse and a womyn's music production company.

back in cincinnati lots of womyn expressed interest in creating a coffeehouse and/or production company so we called a meeting. the group decided to put its immediate efforts into bringing womyn's music to cincinnati and to make a coffeehouse sometime in the future.

since the first meeting we have worked hard together-- deciding how to operate, learning procedure, gathering references. we have had problems and we are still determining policy and structure for the collective. but i have found what i was needing for so long -- womyn who want community and community appreciation of womyn's culture. our strength is growing.

our company is mentoress productions. any woman who would like to know more about the group can contact us by writing to mentoress productions, p.o. box 19361, cincinnati, 45219; or call blair or me at 321 7394. the first mentoress concert will be:

the izquierda ensemble

and

annie dinerman

october 1, at sublette's winery - 9:00 p.m.
free childcare

for tickets (\$4.00 in advance; \$4.50 at the door) and information write to the mentoress address or inquire at sublette's, 2260 central parkway.

COFFEES FOR LESBIANS

every Thursday night at 7:30. They are held at the YWCA downtown at 9th & Walnut, 4th floor. LAB provides the coffee and tea. Feel free to bring cookies, musical instruments, and friends. See you there!

CINCINNATI LESBIANS IN THE NEWS!

Two local lesbians made national news recently with their picture in Off Our Backs. Vic and Sue H. appear in a photograph with an article covering the march to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment held in Washington, D.C. on July 9, 1978.

It's such a wonderful picture that I'm thinking of getting it blown up into a poster! There they are, marching in front of a huge banner that reads, "EQUAL RITES FOR THE LESBIAN NATION. Behind them is a woman wearing a sash over her shoulder saying, "SAPPHO HAD THE RIGHT IDEA."

For those interested, the photograph is in the August-September issue of OOB. Sample copies can be obtained for 60¢ (\$6.00 for a one year sub) by writing to: OFF OUR BACKS, 1724 20th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009. I highly recommend this newspaper -- it's one of the original feminist publications, carrying news of interest to feminists, internationally as well as nationally.

CONTEMPLATION, an anthology written and published by Cincinnati and Dayton, Ohio lesbians in 1975, appeared on the February 1978 cover of the Lesbian Herstory Archives' newsletter.

A copy of CONTEMPLATION had been donated to the Archives back in '75 so future lesbians would know this part of the herstory of Southwestern Ohio. This particular cover of the newsletter showed several of the poetry books in the collection.

Copies of this anthology are still available for \$1.50 plus 15¢ postage. Send to: Karen Beiser, 59 Graham Street, Cinti. OH 45219.

Lesbians who work at the New York City based Archives will gladly accept any materials from lesbians "to gather and preserve records of lesbian lives and activities." Suggested donation for the next three issues of their newsletter is \$2.00 for individuals, \$5.00 for institutions. Write: LESBIAN HERSTORY ARCHIVES, P.O. Box 1258, New York, N. Y. 10001.

Therese Edell, Cincinnati's own lesbian-feminist musician, has had two interviews (that we know of) recently in winninus newspapers -- the June 1978 issue of OVEN PRODUCTIONS and the Spring 1978 issue of PAID MY DUES.

To subscribe to OVEN PRODUCTIONS, the winnin's production company newsletter out of Cleveland, Ohio, write to P.O. Box 18175, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118. PAID MY DUES, A Journal of Women and Music, can be contacted in care of P.O. Box 6517, Chicago, IL 60680.

WONDERING WHAT ANITA BRYANT HAS BEEN UP TO SINCE DADE COUNTY? A recent issue of the newsletter for Protect America's Children claims that the organization, headed by Ms. Bryant, plans to raise money to repeal Seattle's anti-discrimination law. And that's not all! She's planning a "national telephone hotline and Christian counseling center in order to extend both spiritual and clinical help to homosexuals." Finally (as if these weren't enough), she wants to have a TV program in the near future: "The Anita Bryant Family Special."

STATEMENT OF APPRECIATION

TO WENDY WINKLER

LAB MEETING August 10, 1978

(WORD OF EXPLANATION: As many of you know, the Lesbian Activist Bureau is in a time of transition. Wendy Winkler, who has been President of LAB and Editor of DINAH for the past year, has decided she needs a rest (a well-deserved one, we might add!). At the August 10th meeting -- Wendy's last "official" chairing of a meeting -- many of us in the community showed our appreciation for all the hard work she has done. Wendy was presented with a creative cake (made by Sue H.), a beautiful certificate (thanks to artist Julie), flowers, applause and, last but not least, a Statement of Appreciation. We feel that it is important enough to print here as part of the herstory of Cincinnati.)

The authors of the following statement would like to correct several items where we mistakenly credited something to Wendy where Sandie Garsey should really get the congratulations. Our apologies to Sandie. We will show the corrections within the text of the statement.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for all you have done for the greater Cincinnati lesbian community.

We want to THANK YOU for:

I. Co-founding the Lesbian Activist Bureau.

Not only did you help organize lesbians in this city (a feat in itself!), you thought a step further and did the work necessary to get the organization incorporated with tax-exempt status. (* Although Wendy was involved in this work to some extent, Sandie deserves most of the credit!)

As President of LAB, you took responsibility for calling and running meetings. You served as Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary when no one else offered.

You gave numerous talks and discussions publicly, with much courage and inspiration:

- A. The highlight of the recent Gay Pride Day celebration was your speech at Fountain Square.
- B. You wrote the statement that Lilli read before City Council about the Human Rights Ordinance and the arrests in the park.
- C. In the spring of 1977, you were a speaker on the lesbian panel sponsored by the University of Cincinnati's Women's Center. (* Sandie)
- D. At the Women's Conference at UC this spring, we couldn't help but notice that you got the most applause of any speaker.
- E. You were a key speaker at the NOW "Lesbian Awareness" talk in June of this year. Some of us also remember how you were an "open" lesbian in NOW while an officer in that organization.
- F. We were pleased and proud of the recent Sunday Enquirer interview that you did.
- G. You have been on television in the past as an open lesbian. (*Sandie)

(continued)

STATEMENT OF APPRECIATION (cont'd)

You have helped write a grant proposal to train para-professionals to counsel lesbians.

And, as "official" lesbian in the community at large, you suffered harrassment for all of us from the violent homophobia out there.

II. You have served as Editor of DINAH. (* Sandie being Founder)

This does not even begin to define all the responsibilities you took upon yourself in putting out the newspaper.

You were copy editor, reporter, businesswoman, feature editor, printer, and your own critic.

We also remember with pride the special International Women's Year issue and how you did so much to help organize lesbians at the state level. (* Sandie was the mastermind behind this, although Wendy helped.)

III. The Coffees.

You hassled with the bureaucracy at the Enquirer to have advertisements for LAB and the coffees. (* Sandie did most of the hassling.)

For well over a year, you generously offered your home as an alternative to the bars. As an Amazon hostess, you served in many capacities, both over the phone and in your own living room: counselor-at-large; discussion facilitator; information resource; political adviser; as well as entertainer.

Wendy, you have served as a model and inspiration to many of us. You have been a fine organizer and done a lot of hard work with very little thanks most of the time. We want to give you recognition now for the commitment you have made to us.

Wendy, you have: (thus, reads part of the certificate)

the Wisdom of a Goddess; the Nurturance of a Mother; the Love of a Daughter; the Trustworthiness of a Sister; the Strength of an Amazon; the Anger of a Warrior; and the Rebellious Spirit of a Witch.

An anonymous donor has contributed \$100 toward the purchase of a mimeograph machine for LAB. This gift is given in honor of Wendy's contribution to the greater Cincinnati lesbian community. This \$100 bill is now officially being turned over to Joan S., who has consented to be the new Treasurer of LAB. Will you please see that this generous gift gets deposited in the LAB account?

(*** After the thanks & tears, Wendy informed us that she had received a phone call that evening asking how much we needed to get the mimeo we needed! \$500 was given anonymously! thanks, sister -- whoever you are!)

Lastly, we wish to present these flowers to you, Wendy, as a symbol of our appreciation for having the vision and the commitment toward building a community of warriors. Thank you.

MAY WE CARRY ON THAT ENERGY BEGUN BY SANDIE AND WENDY!

-- phebe

FEMINIST FESTIVAL GETS RAINED OUT

A group of Cincinnati lesbians showed up at the Eden Park Pavillion on Saturday, August 27 for a Feminist Festival planned for Women's Equality Day. Several of us set up a table to sell DINAH tee-shirts and to raise public awareness about lesbians. Mentoreess, Cincinnati's newly formed womyn's production company, was there to do the sound system. Phebe was scheduled to do a poetry reading, and Tracey was going to play guitar and sing for the first time publicly.

But it started to rain. After some hesitation about what to do (besides frantically covering the literature table with ponchos!), the dedicated decided to stay and "weather it out" on the pavillion stage.

Kathy Wade, a black woman singer-actress with a powerful voice, sang several songs. Then, it was Phebe's turn. She tempted fate with her insistence on trying to go through with the reading in spite of the thunder and lightning. After much frustration, she gave up. Tracey never even got to make her debut.

The organizer, Sheri Katz Meyer, called for a show of hands; everyone decided to give up and go home. There was a rumor going around that the Festival may be re-scheduled -- indoors this time (just in case).

POSTSCRIPT: Phebe notified DINAH that she would rather have done without the sarcastic comments in the column by Lonnie Wheeler in the August 28, 1978 issue of the Cincinnati Enquirer.

Evidently, ole Lonnie was quite threatened by a group of women meeting that Sunday in Eden Park. Although he appeared "liberal" at first reading (by even writing on the gathering), this proved to be untrue if one read the column closely. He goes on and on about the rain, the way we were dressed, and how the issues of feminism were "esoteric" and similar to "Sociology 101." And, although it is true he did quote Phebe correctly (e.g., "Hopefully, the Goddess will respond with Sun."-- an eye-raiser for Enquirer readers in itself!), he surely missed the meaning of wimmin's revolution through poetry!

OOPS!

In the August issue, we inadvertently left out the last paragraph of Wendy Winkler's Lesbian/Gay Pride Day Address. Here it is:

" Sisters and brothers, make two goals your number one priority for this time in your life and forever. The first one is love yourselves. You are beautiful and you need to love yourselves to counteract all the lies you have grown up with. The second is to unite and coalesce to counteract all the isolation, all the closet pains our society has inflicted on you.

I applaud you for being here. You are beautiful, and you are brave. I love you.

HAPPY FALL EQUINOX!

The Womyn
 The Music
 The Third Michigan Womyn's Music Festival:
 The Spirit
 The Coming Home

August 17-20 in Hesperia, Michigan, was The Lesbian Experience of the Year. It was the oasis in the Amazon Desert, the orgasm of the Lesbian Cosmos, and the air of the Unpolluted Lavender Sky. The following is an unabashed, biased account of the festival from the energy-filled mind of a novice Michigan-goer. It will give you an idea of the experience of Michigan. For reviews of individual music performances and workshops, see elsewhere in this issue...

The brochure for the festival said there were "200 acres of partially wooded country land." Do you know how big that is? It's 10 acres larger than all of Eden Park; more than 20 acres over twice the size of Burnet Woods (for readers outside of Cincinnati, come visit us and we'll take you to a park...). And the womyn. The last count I heard was 6000. We could have filled Music Hall two times. And about 90% of them were lesbians. So, all you Cincinnati dykes who think you don't know any exciting lesbians, try Michigan for vacation next summer -- it will knock your socks off. (Along with the rest of your clothes.)

Although some womyn went a few days before the festival to relax and enjoy the quiet of the land, most of us got there in time to join in the Thursday evening meal. Our arrival in Michigan was overwhelming. After friendly dykes directed us to the "recreational vehicle" section (we had a van), we emerged on the scene as if on some other earth in the Great Female Galaxy. The sheer numbers of the womyn were astounding. And realizing that most of them were lesbians gave me one of those "coming home" feelings that will keep me going for months and months.

The immediate feeling of walking into Michigan is one of being overdressed. The shock of seeing that many nude bodies took my breath away, and I consider myself extremely "liberal" in the area of nudity. After all, I spent many years getting undressed with young women in gym class, at slumber parties, and at summer camps. And I was told over and over again this past year that everybody "took their shirts off" at Michigan. I was still unprepared. There were (hundreds of) womyn with pants on but no shirts, with shirts on but no pants, with no pants and no shirts, and there were womyn (but not very many) with both pants and shirts on. One, huge come-as-you-are party.

The camping accommodations were great. Ten shower spickets for 6000 womyn, right in front of the food line. It was wonderful. What better way to wait in line for an hour than to watch dozens of dykes taking a bath? And the 20 or so Portalets - forget them. At least after the first day. The woods suited our numbers and the uninhibited state of affairs much better. Besides, it was great to experience normal bodily functions without modern technology for a change. The food, too, was good considering the mouths to feed: granola, yogurt, peanutbutter, bread, honey, and fresh fruit in the morning; salads and soups in the evening.

There was still some sunlight shining on all of the beautiful womyn as Therese Edell opened the music of the festival on Thursday evening. What a nice feeling it was, for those of us from Cincinnati, to hear other womyn responding to her music and her humor the way many of us have, and to hear them singing along with her on the songs that we've shared for so long. Her performance was excellent. Her audacity, right on target. Especially when she acquiesced to the crowd's wanting to see her tatoo: a few stars shooting below her belt.

Betsy Lippitt joined Therese in the second half of her set, with her amazing (as always) vocals and fiddle-playing. Together, they produced some of the finest moments of the evening. And, by the time Betsy finished "Focus" (if you will let the night be your lover), everyone was on their feet, clapping and yelling for more.

The two performances following Betsy and Therese were not as exciting, but "Alive", a contemporary jazz band from San Francisco, polished off the Thursday night music with one of the most exciting lead vocalists (Rhannon) at the festival.

So, off to our tents we went...

We spent a lot of time on Friday and Saturday trying to get dry. It rained Friday morning, and it really rained Friday night. The storm Friday night, we heard later, was the worst that area had had in 37 years; tornado weather with a capital "T". It started about halfway through the concert Friday night, interrupting Robin Tyler's comedy performance. Everyone trooped back to their tents and shortly thereafter we experienced an incredible rainstorm, and the weird thing was that it started at midnight on the night of the full moon. For three hours the sky was light more than it was dark; the thunder and rain were incessant. Tents, sleeping bags, and dykes alike were drenched. And the Goddess laughed...

There were many humorous (and frightening) stories coming out of that experience. I, too, have a very funny story about being under a tree, dressed only in a poncho and rubber-soled shoes, but you'll have to ask me about it. It's much too personal to share with 450 readers.

At any rate, the storm not only provided us with a disaster we could share, but it actually boosted our morale. By the time Woody Winmons (not a bad typo, huh?) and Jerene Jackson performed on Saturday afternoon, the skies were sunny and we were ready for that music.

Woody Simmons was great. She's just the kind of person you'd want to spend a leisurely afternoon with. She's personable, and her music is personable -- especially when she plays her banjo. There's a lot of congruence there.

And Jerene Jackson's Big Band was definitely one of the most exciting groups at Michigan: fourteen womyn playing jazz, playing horns, playing the great, "swing" music of the '30s.

Then, sometime Saturday, between the two afternoon sets and the evening concert, I became aware of a drumbeat: congas, bongos, maracas -- all a background to the workshops and activity of the festival. It

continued all that day and through Sunday, and seemed to be a constant vigil; a reminder and a calling-back of our primitive selves.

Saturday night...what can I say. Maybe I liked Saturday night the best because I sat up close to the stage and could hear all of the music and all of the words. Or, maybe I liked it best because of the magical moon sequence between the acts. But, probably I liked Saturday night because that was the night Sirani Avedis played.

Neither Meg Christian, nor Teresa Trull, nor even Sweet Honey in the Rock, stirred up my insides the way Sirani Avedis did. When she stood in the lights on that very first number, willowy and graceful, with no instrument save her extraordinary voice, she was at once vulnerable and strong. She let each of us come in, all who wanted to. She didn't withhold anything from us. And there is something like bedrock in a person who is unafraid to be exposed.

She was excited to have us all be there with her thoughts and her music and her voice. She talked to us a lot about how she felt: about herself, about her city (Chicago), about the world. She added "Armenian" to the words "lesbian/separatist." And she gave disabled womyn a wonderful gift -- her last song was written for and dedicated to them. Although I was too caught up in the moment to remember words, it was something like: you don't have to be an athlete to be a warrior, and that if the rest of us can only look at the woman who has no legs as we look at others, who knows how tall she might stand.

There are so many other phenomena to describe from Michigan: the womyn who signed for the deaf and hard-of-hearing; Robin Tyler, the M.C., who added new meaning to the word "volunteer"; Bernice Reagon, and the rest of Sweet Honey in the Rock -- a special thanks to them for opening our eyes.

Michigan focused on music. But it clearly illustrated the kind of energy and excellence that more and more lesbian womyn can create when they do not have to deal with the sexual-preference hurdle that is imminent when one depends on straight society for money, recognition, or support of any kind. The "hurdle" comes when one realizes that one's continued success at "work" - be it music, writing, carpentry, typing, teaching, etc. - depends on your keeping your mouth shut about your sexuality. Lesbians rarely have the opportunity to pursue careers, higher education, housing, etc., without the fear and the behavior-modifying the straight world imposes on us. The comfort of being openly lesbian now mainly rests with those who have gone undercover long enough to establish their worth (or credentials) at their chosen craft, and no longer need to, or with those who can depend on other lesbians for the bulk of their monetary and emotional needs.

Michigan was different. There was no sexual-preference hurdle. Lesbianism was a given - just as heterosexuality is a given in our society. Lesbianism was the norm; the healthy way to live. It validated our reality as lesbians - an exercise of the old strength in numbers theory: the more lesbians there are, the easier it is to believe it's a viable and productive way to live. And the result of all this openness on the artists and the other participants was to free up their talent and their energy to make gains: to learn, grow, collaborate, and plan for our future.

Every time one of the performers smiled and talked about lesbianism, every time they laughed and made lesbian jokes, every time they sang and played their wonderful lesbian music, they validated us. And we, in turn, validated ourselves. When the sun finally came out after that great, long storm, a unanimous and resounding cheer roared across the camp. And, when the moon began rising above the trees during the exquisite Saturday night concert, six thousand womyn stood up and whooped and hollered and hummed and smiled for 15 minutes. More supportive and nurturing sounds I have never heard.

The energy Michigan gave all of us was incredible. But, alas, here we are back in Cincinnati: our conservative, homophobic "real" world. And, for many of us, it is becoming more and more apparent that we need to generate cultural experiences like Michigan on a consistent basis; to encourage our lifestyles, and to help us develop our communities and ourselves the way we want to.

After all, the straight world's work, social, and personal values drain us of our energy every day by invalidating us (usually ignoring us - don't you know all homosexuals are male?) and the way we live. Doesn't that make you angry? Well, it makes me livid. And the only way we are going to get anywhere is if the lesbians in this city start doing something. That means you. This is your kick in the ass. (How do you do? I'm your kick in the ass, pleased to meet you.) You support men day in and day out (of necessity, I realize, but that's no excuse). Start supporting dykes. Buy a lesbian album or a book, go to a Mentoreess concert, get to one of the coffees on Thursday, help us out at Dinah, buy some leather from Gail in the country, get involved with the Lesbian Activist Bureau, make your own products or provide your own services (we'll sell 'em in Dinah - 10¢ a word), have a poetry reading or a party or invite me to dinner -- do something! Build the good feelings in this community. It's good for your heart. And go to Michigan next year. It's good for your soul.

-- Holly D.

***** MORE MICHIGAN ON FOLLOWING PAGES *****

Dear DINAH Readers -- Michigan responses took precedence over DINAH's Mailbag this month, but please send in your letters, comments, criticisms, and funny stories for next month's issue. We will be glad to print them if they're in by the deadline: Thursday, October 5. We need your feedback. This is our first issue; how are we doing?

On the rainy morning following the powerful thunderstorm, twelve wimmin gathered in the Goddess's presence at the creek for a blessing ritual. Energy then focused on the need for sunshine and clear weather to dry out sodden sleeping gear and to lift spirits for the remaining days of the festival. By noon, blue skies proclaimed the success of the power raised by twelve confident witches.

Michigan was a contrast in sounds. The rhythmic bongo beat echoed everywhere, punctuating conversations throughout the camping areas. But as several of us descended the wooded hill to the hemlock-banked creek, the human voices receded. The pulsating drums masqueraded the reality of the 20th century festival in the clearing beyond this forest. The spirit of an ancient Amazon village reverberated into the secluded valley while four wimmin joyfully renewed themselves in the cool, clear running creek waters..

Cincinnati's presence was alive at Michigan. Our booth in the merchants' tent gave wimmin the opportunity to give DINAH some feedback in person. Although not as many as expected purchased our handsome DINAH T-shirts, they did praise DINAH's humor. We accepted several requests for the return of our Bionic Butch. Our booth also functioned as a contact point for our researcher Dee and those Lesbian mothers willing to communicate their experiences.

Cincinnati closed the festival with its own energy circle, attracting Pittsburgh and Canadian sisters to join its sharing of strength. Wishing each womyn well by name increased the joy and well-being of all who participated. May that bond bring us together there next year.

Joan ..

*

Ah, But If Only..

We were entertained at the festival, and our energy gave the entertainers the support they needed. But that was not all, for we were not a passive audience. It gave me a real sense of strength and freedom to know that we would not quietly sit through something that did not feel right to us. We, the audience, felt in control and we used it when we needed to.

It was the second night, between acts, that a woman came on stage and said there was a sick baby. Wimmin, in an audience of about 6,000, were talking, but a hush came over the hillside. Almost as quickly, another person came on stage and escorted her off. The crowd immediately demanded to know what was happening. Someone came to the mike and said that the woman was being taken care of by her friend, but that was insufficient information for us. The audience would not permit the next act to begin until we were told that the "baby" was a dog, and that a vet was summoned to the healthcare tent to take care of it.

On the last evening, and during the last act (Sweet Honey in the Rock) the woman, who had the sick dog, came back on stage. Again, someone immediately came to escort her off. Without missing a beat, Bernice, lead singer of the group, turned and in her melodious voice said, "Leave her alone." We cheered and applauded Bernice's sensitivity in treating the woman as an individual instead of a potential interrupter. The woman remained on stage, either sitting in a chair on one side or wandering about. This in no way detracted from the performance. The woman exited with the group and the audience came to its feet and cheered until Sweet Honey came back with her for an encore.

What beauty! What strength, what gentleness we all shared in these moments. Ah, but if only we could build a whole culture on that self-assured and tender awareness!

-- Janet Fay

Hesperia, MI. . . . The Third Women's Music Festival held in Michigan was my first concert with lesbians and feminists, and my first camping experience since childhood. Despite a "few raindrops," I was able to cultivate the acquaintance of lesbians from other states and even other cultures. Besides the concerts in the evening, I attended a number of workshops which were well-organized and informative.

I was especially happy to take part in a workshop composed of approximately a hundred women entitled, "Lesbianism Is Political." We were divided into small groups of twenty and discussed the reasons for the political nature of lesbianism, our impact on capitalism, and the threat to the patriarchy of women united. We discussed other items such as role playing, classism vs. sexism, our need for a revolutionary lesbian organization, feminism, and racism.

When we rejoined the larger group, we were asked, "What are you doing in your town?" Many women reported heading community women's centers, providing help for battered wives, rape counseling, self-defense classes, legal aid services, psychiatric programs. Others reported newspapers and speaking engagements designed to change outdated myths about lesbianism.

I'm looking forward to next year's concert and am hoping to enjoy more of the nourishment -- both from the vegetarian meals prepared and served by volunteers, and from the strength the unity of the women provided me.

-- Aries Oshin -- Black Woman Reporter

THE GODDESS SMILES ON US IN CIRCLES OUTSIDE

FULL MOON, September 16, 1978. Thirteen wimmin formed an energy circle -- outside, at last! -- under the Full Moon last Saturday. We gathered at a friend's farm east of Cincinnati, some of us bringing tents and sleeping bags to camp overnight in a secluded meadow.

Almost immediately, we noticed an old tree bone shaped like the sacred bull which is a symbol of matriarchy. It was lying in the meadow near a pile of brush and tree limbs that we were told we could burn for a bonfire that night. This head with antlers received a special place at the north end of the altar. Using our intuition and imagination, we constructed an altar out of a cloth-covered crate, ornamented with wildflowers, stones, and the candles and incense we brought.

The focus of our ceremony was a ritual connecting of our lives, weaving us together symbolically with red yarn (THANKS to article in WOMANSPiRiT for idea!). We blessed friends who could not be with us, toasted our health & happiness, and sent some special good energy toward a successful harvest for the woman who so generously offered us the use of her land.

There was some feeling of deja vu hearing the sounds we made with the kalimba, percussion, harmonica, and recorder music. (Long live the memory of Michigan!) The bonfire was absolutely magical -- so were we that night!

-- phebe

Committee against a Radioactive Environment

Fountain Square has been reserved for an anti-nuclear rally on Saturday Oct. 28, 1978. If you would like to participate contact Marty Smith at 751-1439, or write Committee against a Radioactive Environment care of Marty Smith, 3521 Clifton Ave. 45220.

C.A.R.T.

Children are renters, too had a rally on Sept. 21 on Fountain Square to draw attention to the problems of finding housing with children. Anyone interested in working with C.A.R.T. or finding out more information call or write:

Children are Renters, Too
P.O. Box 20192
Cincinnati, Ohio 45220
(513) 751-2653

Lesbian Herstory Archives Newsletter

If interested in receiving the newsletter write :

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P.O. BOX 1258
New York, New York 10001

Suggested donation for three issues is \$2.00

University of Cincinnati

Diane Engber will be teaching an Evening College course at U.C., entitled "Preaching the Unacceptable: Outrageous Writings by Women." It will meet on Saturdays from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. The course number is 30-001-298. The books discussed will be The Three Marias; Portuguese Letters; Brown's Rubyfruit Jungle; Gould's The Sea Change; Johnston's Gullible's Travels; Wittig's Les Guerilleres; and others.

BOOK REVIEW. Root Chakra by Victoria Ramstetter

(Editor's note: Victoria Ramstetter is a poet in the Cincinnati lesbian community. Her book of poetry is available for \$2.50 by writing to: Moonshadow Press, P.O. Box 20152, Cincinnati, OH 45220 or at New World Bookshop in Clifton.)

"I see you when you think I don't." So swears the poet in a line from the title poem "Root Chakra."

A chakra is an energy center in the body. Throughout all ages and cultures, many have attempted to raise something called Kundalini power in an effort toward spiritual realization. It has been said that when one has opened the root chakra at the base of the spine, one can know or discover whatever she wishes.

What does Victoria ("Vic") Ramstetter discover? She sees that there are lights and shadows in the lesbian world. There are affairs ... and affairs. Our culture is filled with "sad loving," "ruthless cleaving," pain, and (especially) passion. Passion is this poet's focus. (the fate of a Scorpio?)

The title poem of the first section, "The Huntress," is about a twisted sort of modern-day Artemis.

"You may observe her in any bar:

Straddling her stool,

Tapping her toe

To a deviate rhythm.

She'll leer long,

Catching girls with a quarter

And a juke-box song.

She'll make them her golden girls."

Then there's Sappho, the mother of us all. "A Darker Side" begins, "Lusty Sappho loved lots of ladies..." "Song of Sappho" starts a section entitled the same, with stories of several love affairs. "Little girl, let me wipe your tears" is the overshadowing theme of love lost.

There is a tentative quality in even the mellowest of Vic's poetry. Actually, there is only one poem in this book that I would define as "mellow." It is, also, one of the best.

"Cloister (For Sister John Bosco)" is a real love poem. It is one of the few in the collection without pain or bitterness. A reflection on lovemaking, "Cloister" is wistful and filled with an almost childlike wonder. One of the things I admire most is Vic's ability to capture the mood of a moment.

"In the gloom of a summer afternoon
and drawn blinds

with no place to go
no errands to ignore,

I watched each of your shoes
tumble to the floor."

I won't give the rest of the poem away, nor spoil the sensuousness, but suggest you enjoy it yourself.

(continued)

BOOK REVIEW (continued)

More typical, however, are poems like "Through a Lense Darkly" and "Root Chakra." They speak of the dissatisfactions that come with many love affairs -- and that is putting it mildly. There is a sarcasm underlying some of these poems that bothers me. Sure, the lines are witty; sure there is destruction. But there is a compassion lacking that I would expect from a feminist.

An example -- "Through a Lense Darkly."
 Bulbous and malicious,
 your toes scuttle under the table.

...
 Your eyes, little insects,
 dally with light.

...
 Soon
 it will be your turn

to drown shadows,
 marvel at those loose curls,
 those thin white lips.
 Wonder who could prod you to a kiss."

I think it's really stretching a metaphor to describe a woman's toes as "malicious." Rather, I get the feeling there is a difficulty in direct expression of anger. The line, "Soon/it will be your turn," is merely a loser's "So there!" I must admit it's witty, but at whose expense?

One of Vic's strongest points is her ability to describe a situation masterfully with a minimum of words. The closing stanza of "Luna Tick (For Lois, Crazed and Cornered Again)" haunts me with its intensity:

Oh my sister I am sick.
 My love's a swallowed tremor; stark raving
 I am no better. I am no better."

There is a sense of continuity, a weaving together of our lives:

" However
 This is the story of Trolls
 and their lovers:
 In the thread of life, some knitting,
 some weaving, some tangling the spool.
 And all caught on a spindle." -- from "Lesbian Epic"

We need stories of our lives; we crave our own epics! Enough of Homer and his stories of the battles of boys, the twisting of herstory! "Lesbian Epic" is an ambitious beginning.

Not since that wonderful French lesbian, Monique Wittig, have I read such sensual scenes of women! There is emotion so thick you can cut it with a labyris.

"She asks me to worship my cervix,
 She tells me secrets ooze through the marrow,
 seep out the phalanges.

I am the womb carver,
 the warm caressing angel. I let me in."

You'll want to let this electrifying book of poetry into your collection!

-- Karen (phebe) Beiser

I could hunt around for a smart-sounding opening sentence. Or I could just come right out and say, I like to hear Therese sing. Who's Therese? You folks from out-of-Cinti ask Therese Edell is our very own lezzy singer, musician, local-vocal-loud-mouth. I've heard her for some five years now, and over that period of time really come to appreciate her music and her contribution to the Cinti lezzy community.

Let me tell you more about her. First of all, she's homesteaded in Cinti from Pa., and intends to stay. I like that. Too many women with brains and talents head out for New York, San Francisco, and Chicago to make it big. What they don't realize is that smaller cities have good female potential too, and need an ongoing, continuous stream of energy for all of us to both pool into and draw from, that talent in smaller cities is valued in a more intimate, caring way by members of the community. So Therese, in Cinti, is BIG.

I've heard her at the Blind Lemon, cheered her at the Rib, applauded her opening of the '78 Michigan Women's Festival, but most of all I continue to enjoy listening to her at the Winery. It's a weird place, this Winery, looks sort of like a darkened, elongated womb, continually feeding its "foeti" with energizing fluids--homemade wines and herb teas, and healthy, foreign-sounding food.

But what's special about every week is Thursday night. That's the night when Therese plays, sings, yaks, asks for tips, smiles a big goofy smile at her contented audience. She sings songs of her own composition, also those of others, like Alix Dobkin, and her Cinti musical cohorts. One can be reasonably sure of a large, noisy, benignly drunk lezzy crowd here on Thursdays. I think it's courageous of her to sing our songs in public. Many straight women come to listen to her too. I like the feeling of female solidarity this place exudes.

What's so particularly precious about this night, here in this dim lighting, this half-spacy atmosphere, is that a woman like myself can come in, relax, and be comfortable, whether alone or with friends. Here I can hear a woman's voice singing women's music to a groupful of women. The soft lighting helps me to merge into the enclosing femaleness, to identify with the surrounding without being conscious of identity, to let my sacred circle of selfhood (do I intend a pun?) expand in ripples of pleasure to include all the women in the room.

Of course, there are some men in here too. But I can block them out. They come here as appendages of their women friends, rather than the other way round. I like that.

Wine, women, and song. A concentration of Lesbian Song, one night a week, in a mellow, rarefied, non-disco atmosphere. How the tension flows out the head, the arms, the fingers, down the trunk, the legs, out the toes. How the music seeps fluidly, soothingly into the tired Amazon soul, sagging under battering "outside" pressures. How the singing rejuvenates, revitalizes sapped energy.

How I totter out Thursday nights, whooping and smiling as I brandish my labyris at the momentarily unreal world outside. Inside, dream was made into reality, and my soul has drunk deep. I pass the musician's box without putting in the \$20 tip she's so "modestly" asked for, but in my mind, I bow, and say, Thank You, Therese.

WOMYN SPACE -- TO BE RESERVED OR SHARED?

In the last issue of DINAH, the Cincinnati Lesbian Mother Support Group shared with DINAH readers their letter to the We Want the Music Collective regarding the policy of not admitting male children over the age of six to the Michigan Womyn's Festival. DINAH has received the following letters in response to the CLMSG position:

Dear Cincinnati Lesbian Mother Support Group/DINAH:

Do you really want lesbian mothers and their male children of all ages to participate in the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival? My male child is 20, which is certainly too old for the festival. I believe age 10 is also too old to participate.

A guideline age, as set by the WWMTC, is essential to creating that unique utopian all wimmin's community atmosphere. Their defined age limit acknowledges the similar circumstance of little boys being brought into wimmin's toilets in the straight world. A baby or pre-schooler hardly intrudes. Boys of 7 or 8 years and up are beginning to emit aggressive male vibes visually, vocally and physically which subtly interfere with the harmony of wimmin's space. They should be excluded.

Your desire for male children to be exposed to lesbians and feminists who feel good about themselves is a constructive one. I would support efforts to create a situation where lesbian feminist mothers and their children can gather for this learning experience. But the Michigan Festival's efforts at creating an exclusive wimmin's world for four magical days should be applauded, and that "world" should be intruded upon minimally.

In sisterhood,
Joan

To the Cincinnati Lesbian Mothers, in Response to your Open Letter to the Michigan Women's Music Collective:

respond to

I don't like putting energy into negative reactions, but my guts cry out to / your absurd letter to the Michigan Music Collective, accusing them of female patriarchal chauvinism in not allowing male children "of all ages" to the festival. I have read your revised statement* but am not much impressed.

I find it sad, very sad, that you lesbian mothers are so indoctrinated with patriarchal values yourselves that you still lay more emphasis on the emotional development of your male issue, than on preserving a female integrity in such a beautiful all-women atmosphere as the Michigan festival creates.

This is our festival, our celebration, our recreation of an Amazonian, matriarchal culture; we do not want pricks "of all ages" gawking at us, enroaching on our space. We have enough of that in our daily lives.

Mothers who feel the need to cart their sons and heirs, for whatever reasons, along to festivals, can take them to feminist festivals like the Illinois one. I am not against males learning to be androgynous etc.--but that can be done in many other places, in individual communities, and in your daily lives. I see no need for all the women at the festival to cater to the "needs" of a few male children. Our needs are more important and must come first. We are tired of forever standing at the end of the line, even when it comes to women's issues.

So I say to the Michigan Collective--I'm one-hundred per cent behind your decision to keep out chromosomal mutants, and I thank you for creating a true womanspace, in both definition and practice.

Emma, Cincinnati

* See "Lesbian Mothers Oppressed" following.

LESBIAN MOTHERS OPPRESSED

After Dee's Workshop for Lesbian Mothers at the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, a group of **thirtywimmin** shared their discontent with the WWMTF's restriction on male children over six. Oshin has brought us the essence of the letter the group drafted to WWMTF:

Dear We Want the Music Collective:

We need to recognize the oppression of mothers. As women, the institution of motherhood has been a major source of our whole oppression. Mothers who met Sunday at the third Michigan Music Festival, have found a lack of support from the feminist and lesbian community in regard to your rules for mothers, especially when our children are males. The requirement at this year's festival that mothers not bring male children over six years has meant that many mothers could not come. This type of restriction imposed on male children occurs not only here, but in the lesbian/feminist community in general. It illustrates a class issue for the mothers, as many women do not have the resources to leave the children at home. The end result is that the mothers of male children are oppressed in social communities and in lesbian/feminist gatherings, including this festival. Our goal is that the community address our needs the same way it has addressed the needs of other groups. We need to have every woman share in the responsibility to care for and educate our children at this festival.

A first opinion in recognizing the needs of mothers materialized this year when women did not have to pay for the admittance of their children. We suggest the following as other ways of meeting this goal:

- a.. that the arbitrary age limit for male children be dropped, and only male children who cannot care for themselves be allowed admittance. It would be the responsibility of the mothers and male children to respect this festival as women's space;
- b. that there be adult spaces, adult and children spaces, and children's spaces available at this festival;
- c. that there be workshops for children including separate consciousness-raising workshops for male children; and
- d. that the responsibility for meeting these needs not rest solely on the shoulders of already overburdened mothers.

What we need, most of all, is for every woman to be able to come to this festival.

--Committee for Lesbian Mothers

DINAH CLASSIFIEDS

We would like to have a regular "Classified" section in each issue of DINAH to advertise your products and services. Rates will be 10¢ per word. Deadline: Oct. 5 (or the 1st Thursday of every month). Here's our first:

COUNTRY-SIDE CRAFTS - Specializing in custom leather goods such as belts, wallets, leather buckles, etc. Prices reasonable - \$6.50 and up. Now is the time to buy Christmas gifts. Call Gail at (513) 231-1091 to see samples.

LAB Steering Committee Meeting

31 August 1978

Held at YWCA, 9th & Walnut Sts.

Discussion at this first meeting of the LAB Steering Committee revolved around the upcoming staff position LAB may have with Women Helping Women. WHW wants to "loan" 40 hours of time per week to LAB in order that we may hire a full-time staff person. Her title would be "Director" of the Lesbian Activist Bureau, and she would be responsible for the administration and completion of tasks, projects, and work-related activities needed to carry out the goals and objectives of LAB, and to promote it as an independent, non-profit organization.

Since the position must be filled by September 15, the consensus of the steering committee was to give priority to securing this staff person. Immediate efforts will focus on defining the goals and objectives of LAB; input from the 15 womyn who attended will be synthesized, printed, and given to the board of WHW for final approval. Also, a committee was formed to interview prospective candidates for the position.

-- Holly D.

No sooner said than done! We are printing for DINAH readers the completed Goals and Objectives of the Lesbian Activist Bureau. Since LAB is the only active lesbian organization in the city, we want all of you to know what our priorities are. If you would like to help carry out these dreams of ours, call 281-2437, or come to the YWCA on any Thursday at 7:30 p.m. and ask for information.

THE PURPOSE, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES OF THE LESBIAN ACTIVIST BUREAU, INC.

Purpose: LAB is a lesbian/feminist organization dedicated to creating a society which allows women to maximize their individual and collective potentials.

Goal: To eliminate the oppression of lesbians and all women through education, advocacy, and the provision of visible support systems within the lesbian community.

Objectives:

A. Education

Outcome: 1. To educate the public concerning both the existing misconceptions that are attached to lesbians and the social conditions under which we are forced to live.

Process: 1. To do ongoing research and analysis concerning the existing social conditions of lesbians.
2. To compile and disseminate the information generated through research and analysis.
a) To provide a Speakers Bureau to speak to community groups

- b) To develop and maintain a reference library accessible to the community
- c) To publish and distribute educational materials
- d) To utilize the media
- 3. To educate and sensitize professionals in the mental health field to the needs of lesbians.

Outcome: 2. To increase a sense of self-worth and self-sufficiency in lesbians.

- Process:
- 1. To offer classes, workshops, study groups, consciousness-raising groups, etc.
 - 2. To publish and distribute educational materials and an ongoing newsletter.

B. Advocacy

Outcome: 1. To promote civil, social, and economic equality in order to assure full participation of all lesbians in society.

- Process: 1. To develop advocacy elements to promote equality for lesbians in civil, social, and economic areas of society.

C. Provision of Visible Support Systems

Outcome: 1. To provide visible support systems within the lesbian community.

- Process:
- 1. To sponsor places for lesbians to gather, socialize, and share information on lesbian concerns.
 - 2. To provide a location and telephone which will be easily accessible to lesbians in this community, and which will offer information and referrals regarding community resources.

CALENDAR *****CALENDAR*****CALENDAR*****CALENDAR*****CALENDAR*****CALENDAR*****

SUNDAY, OCT. 1 -- IZQUIERDA CONCERT at 9:00 P.M. at Sublette Winery. (See article on "womyn's music in cincinnati" for more information.)

NEW MOON, Monday, Oct. 2 -- Discussion of Les Guerilleres by Monique Wittig and how it relates to wimmin's spirituality.

THURSDAY, Oct. 5 -- DEADLINE FOR MATERIAL FOR NEXT DINAH ISSUE! All articles not in by this date -- however important -- will have to wait until next issue. Bring them to the Coffee or mail them to LAB.

FULL MOON, Monday, Oct. 16 -- There will be a group energy circle. 59 Graham St., apt. 1. Questions or suggestions, call Joan. 651-1509.

ATTENTION: ALL HALLOWS EVE falls on a Tuesday this year (Oct. 31). However, so the greatest number of us can celebrate it, we have decided to have a gathering on SATURDAY, Oct. 28th. Send energy, vibes, and suggestions to the DINAH MAILBAG.

ATTENTION: Announcing a new "Cassandra Circle" ("column" is too phallic a term), on the style of Ann Landers and Dear Abby, in forthcoming issues of DINAH. Write your problems, facetious ones only please, in as few words as possible, and send them to "Dear Cassandra," c/o L.A.B., P.O. Box 24257, Cincinnati, Ohio 45224.

Let me fill you in on Cassandra's story: Cassandra was a Trojan princess who lived in herstorical times, and whose name came into the limelight during the ten years' war between Greece and Troy. She received the gift of prophesy from Don Juan Apollo, who had the hots for her. But she rejected him (righto, Cassy!) and the god retaliated with the "curse", that no trust would be placed in her predictions. After the fall of Troy, she fell to the lot of the Greek leader, Agamemnon (father of Electra and Orestes) to whom she prophesied in vain about his forthcoming calamities. He was murdered in his bathtub by his wife, Clytemnestra, soon after he got home from the war. (Righto-Clyto!)

This new Cassandra, namely myself, comes to you with all the wisdom of the East and with good Dianic energy. She has given over the Greeks and Trojans completely, and emigrated to Mitylene, capital of Lesbos in Sappho's time. Now, at last, the "curse" on her is undone, and sh offers her prophetic wisdom to wimmin who believe. She realizes the original problem was not a "curse" so much as a basic intellectual incompetency in all men to understand her truths, or indeed, all truths.

So sisters, write me your "problems"; let's weave a continental web of fun, ingenuity, and perhaps even occasional problem-solving, through the "Cassandra Circle."

Blessed be!

DINAH WOMYN!! THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO SUBSCRIBE TO DINAH FOR \$3.00 BEFORE THE RATES GO UP. CLIP OUT THE COUPON BELOW AND MAIL IT IN TODAY!!

YES!!! I like having DINAH come to my house every month. Here is my donation; please keep her coming!

Mail to: _____ \$3 () Regular
 _____ \$5 () Supporting
 _____ \$10 () Contributing
 Don't forget your zip code _____

Make checks payable to : Lesbian Activist Bureau or L.A.B.

Lesbian Activist Bureau ***** PO Box 24257 ***** Cincinnati, OH 45224

REMINDER: Deadline for upcoming October issue is October 5. Don't miss it!

Please include zip code Mail to: PO Box 24257, Cincinnati, OH 45224

New Address

Old Address

Name

MOVING?? PLEASE TAKE A MINUTE TO FILL OUT AND MAIL THE FOLLOWING.

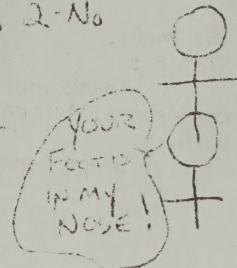
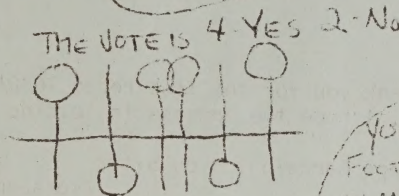
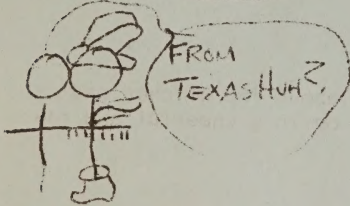
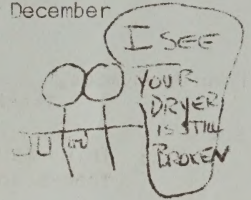
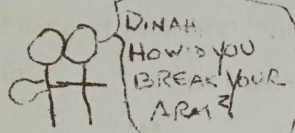
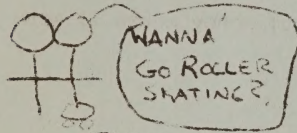
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Dear DINAH Readers,

Happy Halloween! We are so exhausted from working on this issue (we missed you, Phebe - glad you're out of the hospital and getting better), we're substituting some of DPD's cartoons for the editorial (starting in December they will be a regular feature of DINAH - watch for them!)



INSIDE DINAH

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DEADLINES: Due to printing difficulties, there will be no November issue of DINAH. However, we expect to be mailing a wonderful Christmas issue out to you just in time for the holidays. All articles, classifieds, letters, etc. for this issue must be in by December 7 (or by the first Thursday of every month for successive issues). Classified ads cost 10¢ per word. Mail articles to DINAH, c/o LAB, PO Box 24257, Cincinnati, OH 45224, or bring them to the Coffees at the YWCA on the first Thursday of the month.

EDITORIAL POLICY: The editors of DINAH reserve the right to edit any material submitted to us for publication. If you feel your article or letter has been unjustly changed, let us know. We will be happy to print the original along with the edited version.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU to the many people who struggled to get this issue out; what a tremendous success for us all. Thanks to Holly and Emma and Phebe, and to Donna, and to Dee for printing the last two issues, and to Joan, Lilly, Sue, Deb, Puthanne, and to all the typists, printers, collators, and to anyone else who has helped. Thanks.

Dear DINAH,

Please accept this contribution without mentioning names. It's my pleasure to be supportive to your financial needs.

I enjoyed the last issue very much.

Anonymous.

Dear Anonymous,

Thanks very much. Sisterhood is powerful, but money makes it more so!

NOTE: This was a \$50 contribution;
thanks again.

DINAH

To Joan and Phebe.

Dear Sisters!

Thank you for the fine recap in DINAH about the Witches and Amazons conference. I hope the Goddess is leading you on in a cheerful and rewarding path.

Happy Samhain to you all.

Zsussanna.

(Z. Budapest)

Dear DINAH,

I used a lot of out responses and separatist terms in my letter to the Lesbian Mothers group, in the Sept. issue, but what I forgot to make clear was that I was only referring to male children seven and over (since children under six were allowed in anyway without, I felt, posing problems of any kind). I meant to oppose their plea for older male children "of all ages" especially teenagers, who I still hold, would destroy the female solidarity of the festival.

In terms of some of the responses I've received, I'd like to say that one cannot write angry, humorous, or truthful articles for any paper, without inadvertently (believe me, my friends!) rubbing someone or the other the wrong way. In case of future misunderstandings, I suggest it as an unwritten DINAH policy, that the writer and the affronted/aggrieved/ astonished party get together and try to amicably talk over, and at the same time respect, each other's differences. DINAH is, and I hope will continue to be, an honest, freespoken, unafraid newsletter for all sides of any question.

(Many thanks to Joan and Phebe for being so supportive about my articles for DINAH.)

Emma.

DINAH,

Just received DINAH--Sep, 1978. Can't believe you left me and my Lesbian Only Concert (attended by 5000-6000 Dykes screaming their joy and respect) in Michigan, (Festival), Friday nite. How insulting to all of us----

Linda Shear

Once upon a time, there was a bouncing lump of lesbian energy. Three women in search of a bounce, stumbled across it, and hugged it with joy. They moulded it, and melded it, and mothered it into the image of Primeval Woman -- in the flesh, ladies! -- and named her Dinah-Soar.

They sure worked hard on her and Dinah proved such a good "recruit," she turned insatiable. Gradually two of the womyn relinquished their bounce -- they'd put a lot of it back into Dinah anyway -- and one sole strong dyke was left to handle her alone.

This Amazon worked on Dinah single-handed (no fractured wrists, ladies! Her telephone number is ...), and kept her coming month after month. After a heroic effort, however, her fingers started to bleed and swell; she tried other tactics, but finally Dinah began to prove even too much of a mouthful. The Amazondyke surrendered to the latter's bionic energy -- and bowed out.

Dinah shuddered so at the thought of her coming celibacy (what is that?!) that some noble local lezzies came to her rescue. They bounced her around among them in a circle of caring that ended in a grand orgy because of the titillating energy. Dinah herself communicated to them all.

But perhaps because of her initial training, Dinah had developed a particular passion for four-ways. So three of her dynamic new friends* volunteered to cater to her monthly needs -- two good witches of the West and one good witch of the East. Dinah gleefully accepted their offices because they were such excellent riders, what with all their broom-training.

So Dinah is on the go once more, and is looking forward to a long fulfilled adolezzycence. And how does she feel about it? She responds gaily -- Yeah sisters, Dinah-Night!

EMMAHERAZADE (Author of One Thousand and One Lesbian Nights)

* For the purposes of the story, this refers to the three new editors. This footnote wishes to give full credit to all the others who worked on this issue, and to Sandie Garsey of whose colossal efforts I'd been unaware when writing this myth.

Dear Dinah Reader:

Lots of excitement to report from here in Cincinnati!

Several months ago the Lesbian Activist Bureau was invited by Women-Helping-Women to enter into an agreement whereby a Director for L.A.B. could be employed (the idea being that L.A.B. will - as soon as possible - be on its own).

It's my understanding that over 300 fliers were circulated encouraging Lesbians to apply for the position. After a lot of serious thought (and soul searching), I submitted my resume. We all should be aware of the professionalism displayed by the interview committee - Donna, Holly, Peggy, Penny. These wimmin worked hard; asked in-depth questions and represented L.A.B.'s concerns effectively.

One of the major concerns of the membership during this past month is the organizational structure. We are exploring both traditional and non-traditional frameworks. Those of you who aren't able to attend the meetings need to know the hard work being done.

Attendance is good and we are enjoying over 90% continuity PLUS!! new members join the circle weekly.

It's not always easy evaluating our current needs while keeping in mind the future. Our struggles, questions, concerns are not always readily defined.

As the new Director of the Lesbian Activist Bureau, I recognize the giant shoes which came before us leading to this moment. The current tax-exempt status and incorporation papers are indicators of the hard work which helped build this moment.

Together we have the opportunity to grow and build effectively upon this foundation. We have a chance at being more and doing more than ever before - we have the opportunity to gather together not just in Cincinnati but eventually from Maine to Oregon to Florida through Texas to California. We can - if vision permits - stretch our wisdom and test our abilities.

Each issue of Dinah I'll be writing to you. Doing my best to keep you informed. Will you all pledge me the same? Call me. Write me. I want you to know me and I want to know you.

Delighted to be here in Cincinnati I am -

Ruthanne

Ruthanne
Director of the Lesbian Activist Bureau
October, 1978

MUSIC by MENTORESS

Mentoress Productions Company successfully launched its first concert Sunday night, October 1st.

Donna Dreiss welcomed the filled house at Sublotte's Winery, reminding the audience that womyn's music was a special way womyn had of expressing their feelings. Jo Wolf of Toronto was recognized for her efforts as sound director.

Annie Dinerman, a regular performer on Sunday nights at the Winery, opened the concert appropriately with "I'm a Woman on the Way to Where," which reflected her own determination to grow when she wrote the song in 1972, and which could also be interpreted as a send-off for Mentoress. Although the cabaret atmosphere contributed noise disruptive to the performer and to that part of the audience in the back of the room, the warmth of the candlelight setting was an asset over more formal surroundings. Accompanying herself on guitar or piano, Annie performed some of her favorites: "Child Star," "Player Piano," and then "Face the Music" which was done with soul which only its author could express. Annie's local appearances are numbered. She leaves for New York City on January 2nd with hopes of finding greater musical opportunities beyond her "round on both ends, 'high' in the middle" Ohio.

The Izquierda Ensemble was worth waiting for. Although Annie's late arrival and full set performance pushed the appearance of the Izquierda Ensemble to almost 11:30 p.m., their talents commanded several enthusiastic standing ovations from the gradually emptying house. The refrain "I know my life is beautiful" (of "Don't Take Yer Love") drew such approval. The four womyn from Portland, Oregon highlighted their Chicano and Native American heritage with several songs in Spanish and with a primitive beat. Their emotion grew with the song of a Chilean Revolution Activist. The ensemble's mellow harmony was most evident in "Price of Freedom," adapted from Sweet Honey in the Rock. Naomi Littlebear, in her introductions to their songs, stressed important messages they wanted to leave with their audiences throughout the country. One of these messages was that womyn's music does not talk as much about being in love as traditional popular music does. Rather, womyn songwriters are saying how happy they are loving.

A chorus of Cincinnati womyn joined the Izquierda Ensemble for their two final songs. "You can't kill the spirit---It's like a mountain---Old and strong---It lives on and on" echoed through the Winery long after Izquierda concluded.

The ensemble, completing a seven week tour of the eastern U. S. and gaining supporters, now has \$8,000 of the \$15,000 they need to make a record. With their talents and determination, they will soon have it made!

--Joan

COFFEES FOR LESBIANS

Coffees are held every Thursday night at 7:30 at the YWCA, downtown, 9th & Walnut Streets, 4th floor. LAB provides the coffee and tea. Feel free to bring cookies, musical instruments, and friends. See you there!

Being involved in Mentoress Productions, from the start to that incredible Sunday night of our first concert, left me with the feeling that I could, with a few hours notice, come up with anything. (You want an armadillo by 4:00 P.M. with a green ribbon? Sure, it will be there!)

We had been warned by other production companies that to plan a concert with only two months' preparation, plus being our first attempt, was impossible. But we had the chance to have the Izquierda Ensemble from Portland, Oregon play here, and we just had to jump in and try. Peggy Wolf and Gini Edwards had done much research and contacting at the National Women's Music Festival in late June, but it wasn't 'til August that we finally got our collective together.

The spirit was there but our experience was a bit limited when it came to producing concerts. I barely turn on kitchen lights and we didn't know a woofer from a St. Bernard, but we learned. I guess this is the key phrase: "we learned." There were problems (and this is an understatement) but it came off. The pains are fading and the joys are increasing.

But, my dear sisters, coming to that night of October 1 and seeing all your smiling, cheering, happy faces made it for me and the entire collective, a night we will never forget. I was the announcer and I had to just stand there in amazement at all the support. I was speechless but alas, not for long.

Annie Dinerman was great in spite of her ailing body. She had been ill the week before and went on in the best tradition of "the show must go on!"

We were running late and for this I must apologize. Izquierda did not come on 'til 11:30. But they were fantastic! From "Sisters Take Care of Sisters" until they left the place, bursting at the seams with "Like a Mountain," Naomi, Kristan, Izetta and Robin were the essence of energy and excitement. At the end, women were chanting on their way out the door. It was, for me and the Mentoress women, a magical night.

At the end, I felt a bit like Brigadoon Annie packed up and away. Izquierda backed up their van, loaded the sound equipment, waved, screamed "good bye" and sped away to their next concert in Madison, Wisconsin. I stood there wondering if I could wait a hundred years 'til they returned.

We hope you will not have to wait that long. We are growing, we are strong women. We need lots of improvement. We need you -- your support and comments, good and bad. We are women that felt like giants Sunday night and it was from music, our own women's music. We want to feel this again and we want to share it with you all. So thanks again -- we need you all! Send any comments or if you want to be on our mailing list, write: Mentoress P.O. Box 19361, Cinti. OH 45219.

One large "thank you" must go to Jo Wolf, our sound tech. We lost our original sound tech two weeks before the concert and Jo came down from Toronto to do the production. She rigged an impossible system in a more impossible setting, so we thank her and send much love.

Donna Dreiss

ANNOUNCEMENT: There will be a conference on matriarchy at the University of Cinti. Saturday, December 2nd. It will be held in the Annie Laws Drawing Room (in the teachers bldg) from 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM. A video-documentary, "Women, Ritual and Religion" by Gloria Kaufman, will begin the conference. The videotape includes Z. Budapest, Marge Piercy, and many others. Carol Lacque, faculty member at the Raymond Walters branch of UC, will then read from her paper, "Women & Myth: The Surviving Matriarchy." After a break for lunch, there will be a workshop to discuss responses and exchange ideas. For more information and confirmation of time call the Women's Studies Office - 475-6778. All welcome.

www

To All Lesbian and Gay Organizations:

This is an urgent request for help!

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is currently engaged in a nationwide study of police practices. As a result of recent meetings with NGTF and the consequent decision to include anti-gay discrimination in the administration of justice among its concerns, it is anxious to receive as much information as possible about police practices as they affect gay citizens.

To that end we are asking you to send us all information you have about police practices in your community, including, but not limited to, the following areas. Please include any documentation you can.

1. Harrassment. Raiding of gay bars and gathering places. Arrests for holding hands or same-sex dancing. Verbal and other abuse. Brutality. Extortion. Spying on gay political organizations.
2. Unequal Enforcement of Laws. Sodomy arrests for gays only. Arrests of gay prostitutes or "johns" only. Enforcement of building codes at gay baths, etc.
3. Entrapment.
4. Crimes Against Gays. Failure to protect gay people from assaults. Ignoring or failing to prosecute murders, assaults, rapes and thefts committed against lesbians and gay men.
5. Discriminatory Practices. Refusal to hire gay police. Firing of officers discovered to be gay. Department or union opposition to gay civil rights. Failure to respond to complaints by gay citizens. Inflammatory statements about "homosexual" crimes.

In addition to its report on current practices, the Commission will prepare a set of suggestions as to how matters can be improved. Please include any suggestions you may have in the following areas (for example, in-service training with gay instructors, meetings between police and representatives of the gay community).

1. Qualifications for Police Officers. Includes attitudes and suggestions for attitude training.
2. Operations. Includes parameters for police discretion, internal supervision by police commissioners and supervisory officers, external controls by courts and local government, review boards. This category also includes expunging of arrest records and comments on practices of the Department of Justice and the FBI.
3. Complaint and Redress Procedures.
4. Role of the Community.
5. Research. What further research by the Commission is necessary to determine the state of gay-police relations. For example, should a study be conducted to determine the number and circumstances of sodomy arrests in your area, to determine whether or not the laws are being enforced equally?

We know this is a tall order, but the Commission's report could have an important and salutary effect on police practices and public attitudes and it is essential that it receive the information it needs to do a fair job. Please send us a reply by September 30, and we will forward it to the Commission immediately.

(Although it is now past September 30, we still encourage people to send replies)

In addition, please send us suggestions for witnesses to testify at a series of hearings the Commission is planning on this matter. In addition to regional

(continued on page 14)

"phebe's rib"

I'm writing to you, this issue, as if in exile in a foreign world. A hospital, with its scheduled shots and post-operative pills, is definitely a different world than the one I'm used to. I'll spare you the details--suffice it to say I chose to undergo a kidney operation.

"phebe's rib" is in reference to a little souvenir I'm bringing home with me--a section of my eleventh rib that the surgeon removed. (For you out-of-towners, the play on words refers to the misogynous name of the gay bar Cincinnati lesbians go to--"Adam's Rib." It's enough to make the Goddess' stomach turn!)

Anyway, the Sunday of the Izquierda concert, I was lying in my hospital bed. Afternoons can be hard when you're recuperating and are too awake to take a nap, yet not quite alert enough to concentrate. I thought of this first concert that Lentoress had planned and how all my friends would be there. Here I was, stuck in the hospital! I started to feel sorry for myself.

But one of my sisters (thank you, Joan!) had the foresight to loan me Izquierda's cassette "LIKE A MOUNTAIN." I inserted an ear plug in the tape recorder (roommate's T.V. blaring) and listened.

"Why should any woman feel lonely when she is surrounded by friends?
Reaching out through the darkness from a place where we all have been.
Sisters take care of sisters, don't leave any woman behind.
Sisters take care of sisters, we need every sister we find."

--"Sisters Take Care" by Naomi Littlebear

I could hardly believe it! My feelings were being sung!
And I thought...of all the winnin who have been giving me so much energy. Sisters like Ruthanne (who only recently moved to town and doesn't even "know" me). She sent me a letter and spoke a truth in it that I want to share:

"Yes! I am in the midst of something beautiful here in Cincinnati--My goodness, you all are so fine! The talent is non-stop and the energy level high. I wonder if everyone realizes the magnificent strides this community is capable of accomplishing? Lavendar Lights turn me on!"

As Z. Budapest (one of my favorite witches!) has said, we need to remember to honor ourselves. As lesbians, we don't get much positive energy from a patriarchal world. We find that we have our biological family and we have our "Family of Woman"--ourselves.

We can be so beautiful when we support each other! Isn't this what a "community" is all about? A community does exist here in Cincinnati--or at least the beginning of one! Sisters like Lilli who loaned me the tape recorder. Sisters like Rachel who came and did foot reflexology on me. Emma who, not only visited me several times, but did a healing for me the night of the New Moon. Motorcycle Dee who rushed over so many times. And thanks to Kathy and Peggy for the hair wash! To my lover Joan, blessings and continued patience to you!

I could go on, but I've already left out names of winnin who have shared their caring with me in my time of crisis. (You all know who you are.) THANK you for being there! Once more from our sisters Izquierda...

"And if you stay a little longer you will help me getting stronger
And you will know that I've been with you all along."

--phebe

9

LESBIAN COMMUNITY DIVIDENDS

So there you are all cuddled up at home with your lover, just the two of you.* You have each other--that's all you need. You keep busy with your jobs and hobbies, and everything is going OK.

But what happens when your lover gets really sick and is hospitalized? She gets sucked into the womb of the hospital, is well nurtured by beautiful, caring nurses. You, as her special one, visit every day for long hours; you are on her chart as the one to be called in case of emergency. But her Doctor ignores you when reporting on her surgery, speaking directly to her family--her mother is the important one in his eyes. A nurse criticizes her for talking on the phone so much to her "friend" first thing in the morning (it interferes with hospital routine), when you know that nurse wouldn't complain about lack of consideration if it were the patient's husband who called. Her mother ignores you as extraneous. Your mother doesn't understand why you are knocking yourself out so with concern; "You need rest," she says.

How do you get through all this without emotional collapse? (In retrospect, I realize that much of "all this" tension occurred from the internal conflict over how close or open to be in the hospital situation.) Nevertheless, these hassles could be devastating if you had to make it through them on your own.

Fortunately, Cincinnati is a place where you don't have to go through such trauma alone. Cincinnati's lesbian community is a warm group of sisters who are there for you when you need them--womyn who back you up while you anxiously wait during the surgery; who phone, shaking loose the deadly silence of your apartment; and who make countless hospital visits, bringing positive energy, blessing, healing, and cheering to your recuperating lover and you. It was the lesbian support, letting us be our true selves, that eased us through.

Why did I call this article "lesbian community dividends?" Because I realized that I unwittingly brought about these benefits of sisterly concern by having "invested" in LAB participation in the past year. My reaching in has led many lesbians to reach out to me and my lover at this time. With all my heart--thank you very much LAB sisters.

--Joan

* Speak for yourself, Joan! The rest of us use teddy bears, one-nighters, cucumbers, vibrators.....

Signed,

Fantasy Flora

CONTRIBUTORS - This is to remind you that all material for the December issue of DINAH must be in by December 7 (or by the first Thursday of every month for successive issues). Bring articles to the Coffee at the YWCA, 9th & Walnut Sts., 4th floor, on Thursday evening, or mail them to DINAH, c/o LAB, PO Box 24257, Cincinnati, OH 45224. Anything coming in after the first Thursday of the month will go in the following issue. Thanks.

WITCH HUNTING IN CALIFORNIA
Proposition 6 "Briggs Initiative"

10

The most populous state in the country, which only a few years ago decriminalized homosexual sex acts between consenting adults, is fighting anti-gay bigotry against an insidious new proposal -- Proposition 6. Its originator, Sen. John Briggs and his forces, promote Proposition 6 as a measure to "prevent homosexual activity" by teachers and other school employees. Someone who interprets that to mean sex in public might well agree even without any prejudice against homosexuality as such. But this is not what Proposition 6 says. If Proposition 6 is accepted by voters on November 7, every school board in the state would be required to file charges against teachers, aides, etc. "for advocating, soliciting, imposing, encouraging or promoting private or public acts, homosexual acts ... directed at or likely to come to the attention of school children and/or other employees." Those found "guilty" of such behavior would be found "unfit" for service and dismissed from their jobs. Similarly, no one being considered for any school position could be hired if he or she were suspect on these grounds.

Proposition 6 is aimed at all school employees, whether gay or not, who give students any reason to believe that homosexuality is acceptable. A tightly closeted teacher would probably be safe; but a non-gay teacher who favors gay rights would probably be doomed. Proposition 6 is likely to scare many back into the closet, to intimidate both us and our non-gay friends into acquiescing in a new conspiracy of silence behind which our lives can be destroyed with impunity. Proposition 6 is likely to be imitated in many other states if it succeeds and could usher in a nationwide climate of "queer" -baiting hysteria, in which none of us will be safe, whether we make our living in schools or not ... Workers against this proposition need your support -- HELP STOP IT NOW! Send funds to:

CALIFORNIANS AGAINST THE BRIGGS INITIATIVE

NO - ON 6

2049 Market Street

San Francisco, CA. 94114

Checks to: CABI - No on 6

--from NGTF Action Report

Donna D.

TAKE DINAH "TRICK OR TREATING"

Wouldn't it be marvy to see little DINAH t-shirts running up to your door this Halloween? Sure would beat all the Darth Vaters and Farah toothy masks we're going to see. All the little women running smiling shouting wearing lavender and white Dinahs in the moonlight. It almost makes me want to open my door this year and give something! And just think -- if I did, I wouldn't have my windows soaped or my truck tires spread with Hershey syrup.

So, having abandoned my search for truth, I am looking for a good fantasy. Please help me get through All Souls' Day with a smile -- send for your DINAH t-shirt! Just \$5.75 or find Joan or a white truck sans Hershey syrup and you can buy one for \$5.00.

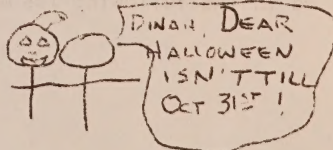
Remember to enclose your shirt size: small, medium, large, or extra-large.

Write to:

L.A.B.

P.O. Box 24257

Cincinnati, OH 45224



It wasn't long ago that Baby Che was only as cute as anyone who as ever smashed peas in her hair. At the age of seven, the age of reason for Catholics and ex-Catholics, Madonna and Fantastic asked Baby Che if she wanted to be a Catholic or a movie star. Nobody's fool, Baby Che wants to be a movie star. Contracts have already been signed and Baby Che is scheduled to do Baby Che Goes To The U.N., Baby Che Goes To NASA, Snowshoeing With Baby Che and Baby Che Goes Metric. When her dues are paid, Baby Che will move on to her first major motion picture, a musical remake of some of the Bible's best scenes updated for the 80's in the 20th. century. Baby Che will star in Jesus Raves! Baby Che (B. Che as she is called when she is behind her red plastic wrap around sunglasses) will travel the highway of life in her own road series. Have Drugs. Will Travel. The cocaine to nose connection, getting the two together. Have Cold. Will Travel. The TV series from the movie. Finally, with these projects out of the way, Baby Che wants to concentrate on her serious work, an asphalt western called Have Gum. Will Travel. This is basically the story of Doris and her days as a shopping bag lady and bargain messiah. Baby Che will play a streetwise urchin who chews gum and stands on street corners dealing witticisms, criticisms and asking for quarters. We will see Baby Che's little shoulders droop with the dailiness of life. We will see a tight shot of Baby Che's mouth set in a grim line. With centuries of wisdom in her clear eyes, Baby Che will respond with overwhelming compassion and demonstrate some intellectual intensity of interest.

(Doris - Keeper of the Flame whose Perpetual Festival of Life gave fire to the wrong people.)

SUGGESTION: Why don't a group of you dancing dykes out there buy DINAH t-shirts and wear them one night (all at the same time) to the "Rib" -- and take it over.

HALLOWEEN SPECIAL

ON WITCHES AND FELISPIRIT

It's a generally accepted fact that Cincinnati is a pretty conservative, hopelessly midwestern city. We laugh uproariously every time we hear someone's decided to move from another city or country (and that goes for myself too) to Cinti instead of moving away from it. But really, it's not all that bad, in terms of its feminist energy. We have groups (to name only a few) like L.A.E., with its weekly coffees and smashing newsletter DINAH, we have Mentoreess which is a womyn's music collective, we have a Womyn helping Womyn center, a rape crisis and battered womyn center, lesbian and CARD hotlines, and (hear this, Salem), we have a Dianic witches' coven (in the making).

It all started when Phebe, Joan, and Kathy, three super womyn from Cinti, held a spring equinox-cum-full moon celebration in March, 1978. It was attended by close to forty people, but somehow ended up as a party instead of a spiritual experience. I can't give you more info on this because I was out of town that weekend (I took the bus then, now I fly my broom).

Then Joan and Phebe attended a midwestern Witches and Amazons conference in Southbend, Indiana, in June '78, and came back with renewed zeal at hearing dynamic Z. Budapest's talk on female spirituality. Z.I. is high priestess of the Susan E. Anthony Coven #1 in Los Angeles. Some of you may remember hearing about a witch sentenced to imprisonment in L.A. a few years ago, when the cops dug up a centuries-old (misogynous) law aganist foretelling the future (also her wiccan church was not legally incorporated at that point), and nabbed her while reading tarot cards. "Attempted to nab" is more correct; Z. relates in her recorded tape how her threatened hex of four months' nightmares (wo!)--to the first man who touched her--sent the pigs oinking to the walls in terror.

But more about that some other time, for Ego now pulls at my sleeve and demands I tell you, first of all, about the herstory of my own association with witches.

I had read about witch trials in the U.S. and England and empathised in impotent fury with the harmless and immoverished, or s) intelligent and herbal-healing aged women (mostly of the peasant class) who were dunked in ponds and burnt at stakes, supposedly for practising witchcraft but in truth for being a) old, therefore useless b) womyn, therefore unimportant c) natural healers, therefore a threat to papal superstition d) dependent, therefore economically undesirable to the patriarchy.

So I visited Salem twice, to get in touch with my anger--the first time I ended up paying my money to tour the House of the Seven Gables and eat salt-water taffy, the second time I bought an oversized (I thought it would shrink in the wash which it didn't), tacky (there was no excuse for that) T-shirt for three bucks that said "BEWITCHED" and showed a hooknosed witch riding a broom. (I use it as a night shirt now because the "in" thing seems to be to wear six buck black "feminist wicca" T-shirts, or five buck white-with-lavender DINAH shirts.)

My only contact with real-life witches (and warlocks), however, was by general invitation, on a dark and eerie night in 1971, around the founder's grave in the center of my old college campus. The witches there all wore black (what else): one, whom I recognized from an English class, bared a pair of grinning fangs at me, at which

my own affrighted teeth almost fell out of my head; then my friend and I, harmlessly inquisitive "innocents abroad," were chased at full speed back to our dorm by a couple of howling Satanic horrors. We locked ourselves up in our rooms, ate a clove of garlic, and swore at each other for our infernal curiosity (slightly exaggerated).

So I had mixed, almost cynical feelings about witches and their "craft" when Phebe, Joan, and Kathy (whom I thank, now that I have drunk deep on moonshine and seen the light) again announced a full-moon Dianic celebration. Nine of us attended (a magical number)--with various degrees of interest, hope, and curiosity. We received the fresh, inspirational (to me at least) "message" that Dianic witches were not old hags or young rich bored American black-magic weirdos, but honest-to-goodness feminists, who believed in spiritual womynpower, herbal healing, lunar energy; womyn who revered Diana as the Goddess outside themselves, and used her as energy-release to tap the divinity within themselves.

The first celebration, beginning in self-conscious anticipation and ending with energized jubilation, was the exciting forerunner of regular monthly gatherings. The general atmosphere and proceedings are the same every month. The room is lit by candle-light and perfumed with incense; the curtains are drawn--like the early Christians we must meet in the privacy of our homes instead of temples--for religious zeal without financial backing is always an easy target of persecution in "man's" civilization.

We begin the ceremony by holding hands in a circle around the altar, humming to release the trapped sound energy within us. Then we go through differing healing rituals, preplanned by Joan, Phebe, and Kathy, in consultation with their manuals. My favourite ritual, performed only twice so far, is the symbolic burning of dry oak leaves in a cauldron; their crackling and hissing represent the destruction of harmful negative forces within and around us. The ritual ends with another circle, this time of well-wishing, as each celebrant is commended in song to the Goddess's care and healing. We then go outside and gaze adoringly at full-bellied Di. (I wonder if chaste Diana's rounded, pregnant image is the prototype of the immaculate conception in Christian and Indian mythology.)

Not the least part of the evening is the friendly drinking of wine through the sacred chalice (that's spiritual, alright), eating of goodies, cohorting with maryjane (for those of us who wish to live on higher planes of existence), and general exchange of good vibes and talk.

There are also meetings on the night of the new moon, to discuss new rituals or discover new sources of femispirit. (No good looking that up in Webster or the Oxford, I made it up, in my other capacity as licentious poetess.)

The Hallowmass celebration will be from 8-12 on the night of Oct 31st. This is also the night of the new moon; the energy therefore ought to be powerful and good. We hope there will be a large gathering to celebrate our rich wiccan heritage. You atheists and non-believers out there are also welcome. Womynenergy goes by many other names if you're uncomfortable with the term "Goddess-worship."

If the spirit moves me I may even read you my trilogy about:
a) The slumbrous witch who wakes only for an hour each year on Hallow's Eve, b) the lament of her three frustrated, inert brooms, and c) the complaint of her faded fart-filled black skirts.

There is a myth, floating around U.C. each year in October,

that in bygone days, a virgin was offered as sacrifice on Halloween. I would gladly offer myself up to the coven in this capacity but there are x (guess the magic number) womyn in Cincinnati who would call me up on the (ahem) lie, so I'll substitute a titillating poem instead--about a virgin with fleshy thighs who offers herself as sexual sacrifice to Diana. I cannot share this, and my trilogy with you in DINAH because of Sannie's prophetically expressed horror (see the Sept. issue) that DINAH may be waylaid by tacky poetry.

The full moon celebration (16th October) will be low-key this month, but I know it will be warm and full of caring, for Phebe hopes to come home from the hospital on Friday the 13th (an auspicious day by our calendar) from a kidney operation, and we shall gather together to show her our support and love.

In the meantime I say to her in the words of our closing song, and I know my fellow-celebrants join me wholeheartedly, "Phebe be well,/Phebe be well,/All manner of things shall be well."

Emma.

RAP GROUP FOR SLIGHTLY OLDER LESBIANS (SOL)

Who, besides myself, would like to see a meeting place for the somewhat-older-women in the Cincinnati lesbian community - about 30 and above?

How about the formation of a rap group for those of us who are interested? We can use rap-time to talk about issues concerning us, and/or socialize!

In order to coincide with the next issue of DINAH, I've set the date for the first meeting at 7:30 pm, Wednesday, November 8th at my home (unless another space becomes available).

Please pass notice of this group on to any friends you think would be interested. Call me for directions (I'm out a good deal, but please leave your number and the call will be returned).

--Ellie, 241-6724

NGTF (continued)

hearings planned for Philadelphia in February and Houston in March, there will be a subsequent national hearing in Washington and, in December of this year, a "consultation" in Washington with "expert" witnesses. The definition of an "expert" is somebody who knows a lot about the subject. Please send your suggestions and replies on any and all of the above matters to:

Police Practices
NGTF
Suite 1601
80 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10011

Ten years ago this autumn I was falling in love with a woman for the first time in my life. And, while I knew it was love (huge & desperate) I wasn't sure of either what to do about it or, exactly, how to do it. I had no role models and she wasn't talking. She thought I was too young and impressionable. She was a year older and I was crazy with desire.

(Looking back, I see this first romance as star crossed from the beginning. One of the places we went to be alone was a weirdly deserted park. It was deserted because a woman burned the body of a woman she allegedly murdered there. It was over a man and frankly, I doubt all the trouble was worth it. Another place we went to be alone was a cemetery, but that's another story.)

In any event, I had no role models. But, I did have the movies and where else to learn about life in the world but at the movies, in the dark.

My first exposure to Hollywood's School of Lesbian Acting (from here on referred to as the SLA) was The Group. Here, I saw the Candice Bergen lesbian as distant, efficient and into playing house with the Baroness. As well, I saw the Joanna Pettet unresolved lesbian identity and death by marriage syndrome.

Then there was The Children's Hour with the Audrey Hepburn fragile strength lesbian and the Shirley MacLaine neurotic lesbian. In The Fox, Sandy Dennis brought new meaning to the word neurotic and Anne Heywood was the young butch. The Killing of Sister George with Beryl Reid as the older butch, emphasis on older as useless, to Sasannah York's young, two timing femme.

Finally, there was the story of Therese and Isabelle which was as close to my own adventures as anything was likely to be. We were playing people the same age, trying to have affairs at school.

None of these movies had a remotely happy ending. One by one, half of these women met spectacularly justified ends. Pettet fell out of a window in service to her country, everyone betting it was suicide. Bergen brought the shroud. MacLaine hung herself and Hepburn ran, with great passion I thought, back to the house to stop her and was too late. Sandy Dennis was killed by a tree and Heywood married the man who cut it down. York went with the higher bidder and Reid went on alone and lonely. Therese and Isabelle were separated by forces beyond their control. As well, forces (life and another woman) separated this first woman and I. Even though I had no interest in being anyone else, she was sure I wasn't, would not remain a lesbian. A real lesbian. She continued to think I was young and impressionable.

As I said, I was crazy with desire.

YES!!! I like having DINAH come to my house every month. She is one of my favorite visitors. Here is my donation; please keep her coming!

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Make checks payable to the Lesbian Activist Bureau
or LAB, either one. Thanks.

Lesbian Activist Bureau

PO Box 24257

Cincinnati, OH 45224

DINAH CLASSIFIEDS

COUNTRY-SIDE CRAFTS - Specializing in custom leather goods such as belts, wallets, leather buckles, etc. Prices are reasonable - \$6.50 and up. Be sure to order now, before the Christmas rush. Call 231-1091 and ask Gail to return your call.

SEA FRIENDS RECORDS, Cincinnati's finest (and only) feminist recording company, presents our first release: Therese Edell's From Women's Faces. Twelve songs written by women from Cincinnati, including Annie Dinerman's "Moonflower," Betsy Lippitt's "The Gig Song", and Therese's "Mama Let Your Children Go." \$6.60 postpaid, plus \$.30 tax. Sea Friends Records, PO Box 20015-D, Cincinnati, OH 45220 (241-2150). Also, if you need a sound system for your event, we have reasonable rates and very good sound. Support our feminist business. And thanks to the women who have continuously supported our work.

CALENDAR

- October 31 (Tuesday) - Hallomas Celebration from 8-12 p.m. at Phebe's. For more information call 381-8556
- November 5 (Sunday) - DINAH meeting for hard-core DINAH fanatics; policy, procedure, and organizational issues will be discussed. Anyone who is willing to be a part of this publication on a regular, month-to-month basis is welcome to attend. We will meet at 7:00 at Holly's (281-2437 for directions).
- November 8 (Wednesday)-Slightly Older Lesbians (SOL) will meet for the first time at Ellie's (241-6724), 7:30 p.m.
- November 14 (Tuesday) -Full Moon Celebration will begin at 8:00. Call Phebe for directions and information (381-8556).
- November 16 (Thursday)-The film, "In the Best Interests of the Children," will be shown at the LAB coffee, 8 p.m., YWCA, 9th & Walnut Sts, no admission charge. This movie shares the experiences of eight Lesbian mothers and their children. It exposes the struggle Lesbian mothers are facing across the country in child custody cases. This is a good movie for the womyn in our community; please join us.

Don't forget that the Lesbian Activist Bureau sponsors a coffee every Thursday at the YWCA at 9th and Walnut Streets, 7:30 -10:00, for any Lesbian who wants some social interaction with other Lesbians outside of "the bar". Welcome to the new womyn who have come for the first time in October. We're glad you're here.

DINAH POSITIONS - DINAH wants to expand and to get more organized (only DRD and Emma can understand this fully). We need womyn for the following: 1) to coordinate, distill, and then, expand, the mailing list; 2) to seek names and addresses of national and regional organizations who should be getting DINAH, and should be exchanging our publication for theirs; 3) to read other lesbian and feminist publications (we have access to the publications) to find articles (especially news articles) that would be of interest to DINAH readers. If you are interested in taking charge of one of these positions or areas, please come to the meeting on November 5 (see above for details).

THE CASSANDRA CIRCLE
(From Mitylene, capital of Lesbos)

17

For our new readers: This is a "cornycopia" page -- a "corny" "coping" of problems in the "Dear Abby" style. Please write your facetious problems to: Dear Cassandra, DINAH c/o LAB, P.O. Box 24257, Cinti OH 45224. I hope you enjoy this first attempt! Comments welcome. CASSANDRA

Dear Cassandra,

My mother opened a love letter from my lover. Should I confess? I don't want to hurt her, and I'm afraid I might be committed to an asylum. What should I do?

FEARFUL

Dear Fearful,

If your mother has read the letter and not yet caught on, you have nothing to worry about. Play dumb -- only the abnormally sane, those with a total hold on reality, are committed to an asylum.

Dear Cassandra,

My sweetheart and I argue constantly. She flirts with other women openly and has even given them our phone number. My home problems are affecting my business life, and I recently began drinking heavily, sometimes resulting in violent behavior. She says she loves me, so why is she doing this to me?

Joannie Walker

Dear Joannie Walker,

Honey, you're doing this to yourself. Joannie Walker -- start walking -- OUT!

Dear Cassandra,

My lover left me for my worst enemy (she was formerly my best friend). My heart is bleeding so much I have signed up as a regular donor at the Blood Clinic. But they won't take more than so many pints a week. How can I stop the flow?

Aorta

Dear Aorta,

For the cure of bleeding hearts, it has been my general experience that Johnson's band-aids are more effective than Curads. If this doesn't stop the bleeding, try transferring the source of pain, to give your heart a rest. Concoct the following potion: Blend together at high speed four ounces of jalapeno peppers, 1 tbsp oyster sauce, five crushed grapes, 1 cup cooked pinto beans. Drink at a gulp. The excitation it causes in your nether parts will immediately remove your thoughts from your heart and convince you that heartbleed is preferable to heartburn. If even this doesn't work, attack the root of the problem -- Eat your heart out. Or, as the little children in Mitylene chantingly put it, "My heart is in my mouth/O my heart is in my mouth. / I chewed it and digested it /And now it's coming out."

~~~~~ BLESSED BE! ~~~~~

JUST GOT THE WORD! Sirani Avedis will be in concert in Bloomington, IN. on Sat., Nov. 11th - 8:00 PM at the Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2120 No. Fee Lane. Tickets \$4 at door, \$3 in advance from A Room of One's Own feminist bookstore.



MAIL TO: PO BOX 24257 CINCINNATI, OHIO 45224 THANKS

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# DINAH

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\*DINAH\*  
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Lesbian Activist Bureau, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1485  
Cincinnati, OH 45201

Hello, Sisters!

MAY 1979 ISSUE

We hope you've been enjoying DINAH as much as this wonderful spring weather! Something new that has happened is that DINAH now has her very own softball team. It's a good feeling to see all those DINAH t-shirts strutting around the field. (See elsewhere for schedule and review of the games.)

Our big plea this issue is for more writers! The next time you're at a lecture, concert, conference (or even softball game), why don't you consider jotting down your impressions? Chances are, other wimmin would also be interested (especially if they weren't able to be there). We'd love to hear from more of you out there!

This issue we continue with the "Forum on Relationships." We hear through DINAH'S grapevine that you have been talking among your small group of friends in response to these first articles. We hope some of you will share your ideas with the larger community so we can all do some heavy thinking about this important topic.

Wimmin's music has been very much alive in Cincinnati! We have an interview with Holly Near and J.T. Thomas, as well as a review and comments on the ALIVE! concert. Mentoreess is taking a well-deserved vacation for the summer; but we'll have news on the Champaign-Urbana Womyn's Music Festival in the July issue.

DINAH bids her sister Cassandra farewell. Cassandra is closing her Circle since we seem to be so self-sufficient we don't need advice.

So, get yourself a tall glass of iced tea and sit down and enjoy!

phebe, one of DINAH's wimmin

Thanks and a bouquet of flowers to: Kate, the computer wizard, for writing a program computerizing the mailing list; editors Holly, Cinci, and Phebe; Joan for taking care of the money and supplies; Scotty for her tremendous burst of energy with the exchange publications; Sue, Maggie, Dee, Betty, Linda, Lois, Emma, Debbie A., Barb W., and all the collators.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

DINAH is published six times a year: January, March, May, July, September, and November. All material for the July issue must be in by Thursday, July 5. Send material to DINAH, P.O. Box 1485, Cincinnati, OH 45201. Ten cents per word should accompany all classified ads.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The editors reserve the right to edit any material submitted to us for publication. If you feel your article or letter has been unjustly changed, please let us know.



Dear DINAH Readers,

Spirits are high in the DINAH Collective these days. We have all worked hard for the last several months, not only on the quality and content of DINAH, but in reorganizing our woman-power so that all of the necessary jobs get done on time and with the least amount of problems. We feel that our last few issues reflect much of this effort and we certainly hope you've received and enjoyed them (the Post Office has been incredibly slow delivering DINAH- it took some of us here in Cincinnati 10 days to get the issue).

As you may know, we are now publishing six times a year - January, March, May, July, September, and November and we depend on the financial support of our readers to keep DINAH going. We have recently acquired a new staff member, Scotty, who will be keeping track of the mailing list and subscriptions - a monumental task. In the future, she will send subscribers renewal notices at appropriate times, but since our records have not been complete in the past, we are sending this "renewal" letter to all of our readers.

If you have not renewed your subscription to DINAH within the last year, please take the time to fill out and return the form below, along with your contribution. If you have subscribed recently, know that we appreciate your support and encourage your comments and suggestions about any aspect of DINAH. We want to hear what all of our readers think about our work. If you cannot afford any donation to DINAH at the present time, DINAH will still visit you six times a year - she's free to anyone who can't afford her.

Thank you all for your continuing support. You are the reason we keep working.

In Sisterhood,

The DINAH Collective (Phebe, Holly, Cinci, Scotty, Sue, Deb, Joan, Maggie, Dee, and Barb.)

-----  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ \$3 ( ) Regular  
\$5 ( ) Supporting  
\$10 ( ) Contributing  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: THANKS.

( ) Check box if you would like receiving mailings from other non-profit women's organizations.

DINAH  
c/o LAB  
PO Box 1485  
Cinti. OH 45201

DINAH RENEWAL FORM DINAH RENEWAL FORM DINAH RENEWAL FORM DINAH RENEWAL FORM



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Note: For details of these events, see elsewhere in this issue.

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 30-June 3 (Wed-Sun) | National Women's Music Festival in Champaign, Illinois. Full Week: \$35.00. Weekend: \$24.00                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| June 2 (Sat.)           | C.A.R.E. CONCERT. Citizens Against a Radio-active Environment is holding a benefit concert on a farm in Winton Place. For more info, call CARE at 961-4484 or 281-7657.                                                                                                                                              |
| June 3 (Sun.)           | March and Rally at Zimmer. 1 P.M. at Point Pleasant Park (on Route 52 near Moscow, Ohio).                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| June 6 (Wed.)           | SOL (Slightly Older Lesbians) Meeting. Call Ellie for info (241-6724).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| June 9 (Sat.)           | Sirani Avedis concert in Yellow Springs, Ohio. 8:00 P.M. at Kelly Hall on Antioch College campus. Tickets \$3.50 and \$5.00.                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| June 9-10 (Sat-Sun)     | White-water rafting trip in West Virginia. For info, call Rachel (561-8856).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| June 16 (Sat.)          | Meeting for hard-core DINAH fanatics. 4:00 PM Meet at Holly's to review this issue and discuss new business. New wimmin are welcome! For info or directions, call 281-2437.                                                                                                                                          |
| June 20 (Wed.)          | SOL meeting.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| June 21 (Thurs.)        | Summer Solstice celebration. Call phebe (751-4479). Also, LAB General Mtg. 8 PM, YWCA.                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| June 23 (Sat.)          | Meg Christian and Therese Edell are both singing at the Abortion Rights Rally here in Cinti! March begins at 2:30. Meet at 12th & Elm (near Washington Park). Rally at the Serpentine Wall at 3:30. Speakers and singers are in response to the National Right-to-Life Committee's annual convention in northern Ky. |
| June 30 (Sat.)          | Lesbian/Gay Pride Day in Cincinnati! Rally at Fountain Square scheduled for 1:00-4:00 PM. Many speakers, including Margareth Miller, the lesbian mother who recently won a case in Michigan. Booths, pride, and fun! Come out!                                                                                       |

CALENDAR (continued next page)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| July 4 (Wed.)          | SOL meeting.                                                                                                                                                                |
| July 5 (Thurs.)        | Deadline for material for July issue of DINAH. P.O. Box 1485, Cinti OH 45201.                                                                                               |
| July 18 (Wed.)         | SOL meeting.                                                                                                                                                                |
| Aug. 1 (Wed.)          | SOL meeting.                                                                                                                                                                |
| Aug. 23-26 (Thurs-Sun) | Michigan Womyn's Music Festival! For info, write: We Want the Music Collective, 1501 Lyons, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 or call (517) 772-0582. Hopefully, more info next issue. |

LAB COFFEES

LAB coffees are held every Thursday night at the YWCA, 9th & Walnut. Come by and relax with some wonderful Amazons! Dates of upcoming coffees are: June 7, 14, 21, & 28, July 5, 12, 19, & 26.

\*\*\*\*\*

DINAH CLASSIFIEDS

IZQUIERDA ENSEMBLE'S NEW ALBUM, QUIET THUNDER, is available now! Send \$6.45 to: Riverbear Music, P.O. Box 14113, Portland, OR 97214. Enjoy 4 Oregon Women making acoustic images with voices, guitar, piano, flute, and percussion.

DO YOU NEED A RESUME? Clifton Resume Service can help. CRS will prepare your entire resume to your satisfaction, with your choice of paper and typestyle. FREE matching envelopes during the month of June. Call now -- 281-2437.

OPENING SOON!: THE CRAZY LADIES BOOKSTORE at 4168 Hamilton Avenue. You'll be able to obtain books by and about wimmon, wimmon's music, non-sexist children's literature, wimmon's posters, and t-shirts.

SIRANI AVEDIS, a lesbian-feminist musician from Chicago, will be performing in a concert for womyn on Sat., June 9th, in Yellow Springs, OH. The concert will be at 8 PM in Kelly Hall on the Antioch College campus. Ticket prices are \$3.50 or \$5.00; under 16 admitted free. Childcare will be provided and womyn will be on hand to help womyn in wheelchairs enter. The concert is being presented by Antioch Womyn Against Rape and Terrapin Records. For information call (513) 767-1312 or 767-1838.

I TELL STORIES WITH STRONG, WISE WOMEN AS HEROES. Available for any gathering, large or small. Fee on request. Karen Feinberg, 542-8328.

\* Classified Ads are ten cents per word.  
Write: DINAH, P.O. Box 1485, Cincinnati, OH 45201.

\*\*\*\*\*

HELP! Sue & Maggie are looking for a place to have a tryst (ancient lesbian bonding ritual). this summer. They want it to be outdoors and some place where no men are around. Any woman with ideas of where they could have this ceremony, or if you have questions about trysts, write to them at: TRYSTS, c/o DINAH, P.O. Box 1485, Cinti OH 45201. Thanks.



The response to the March issue's FORUM was overwhelming - we're glad to know you all are interested and reading it. (WRITE TO US!) This month, the topic is non-monogamy, and we encourage your responses to both of our articles. We haven't decided on the topic for our July issue (the one we will be taking to the Michigan Women's Music Festival, by the way), so if you have a topic you would like for us to write on, or if you would like to submit an article to the FORUM, please do so.

\*\*\*\*\*

### NONMONOGAMY: Is This What You Really Want?

.....to be read aloud, with much feeling.....

In the prearranged setting, perhaps a dimly-lit restaurant or quiet cafe, the two of you sit, casually sipping tea and wine. You glance at one another constantly, talking very little. One of you smokes cigarettes with a passion, flicking the ashes into the glass tray; the other fingers the cigarettes with a studied expression, and methodically rolls the ashes onto the side of the ashtray -- determined, cautious. Finally, you break the silence and say, "Rose, I have something to tell you." Rose slowly nods her head, knowingly. You look down at your cigarette, take a long drag, then force yourself to look into her eyes again, fighting an unacceptable urge to burst into nervous laughter. You say, "Rose, I don't want what I am going to say to put any pressure on you or to change our relationship." Rose nods her head quickly this time, knowingly and reassuringly. You finally get the courage to say what has been on your mind for days, no, weeks, and with equal feelings of excitement and impending doom, you say, "Rose, I am attracted to you. I've tried to deal with my feelings myself but I can't. I had to tell you. I wish things were different, I mean, I wish you weren't with Jill - you weren't attached. But, you are." With that, Rose smiles, reassuringly and alluringly, and interrupts your speech, saying, "You don't have to say anymore. I know exactly how you feel -- oh, I long for you, too. And, it's OK, it's OK." (It is? you think, your heart leaping up.) "Yes, it's OK, because Jill and I are in a nonmonogamous relationship." (You are? you think, heart suspended in mid-air.) Rose waits, as the meaning of her statement sifts through your consciousness, forming your answer, and you finally say (with appropriate affect, of course):

- A) "No, Rose, no, no, no."
- B) "Far out - my house or yours?"
- C) "What do you mean, nonmonogamous relationship?"

\*\*\*

Now, as we all know, only the most sophisticated and well-seasoned woman will choose answer A. She is the woman who is confident and self-assured, self-actualized beyond her years, averaging three "peak" experiences per day. She always knows what she's doing, she has lots of friends, and she doesn't need what she may perceive as another tacky relationship.

The woman who chooses answer B has a life that is slightly dull and lackluster. Her experience with women may range from zero to vast numbers but, regardless, she loves a good party. Her choice will, at the very least, lend spice and adventure to an otherwise normal and routine existence. At the most, she will get a very timely and practical demonstration of what I call the "musical chairs" effect, in which three intelligent, open, and honest lesbians turn on the music



and expend great amounts of time and energy trying to fit three asses into two chairs.

Choice C, of course, is the best answer. At least, if you choose choice C, you can always go back and choose answer A or B at a later date.

\*\*\*

Everybody knows what "monogamy" is, but nobody knows what "nonmonogamy" is. "Nonmonogamy" isn't listed in the dictionary with all the words that begin with "non". We do not have lesbian spellers yet so it's not in one of those. Maybe your friends can tell you what nonmonogamy is. Ask them. I asked mine. Their answers ranged from a very liberal "being able to experience sexual relationships with anyone at anytime" to a more conservative "having a monogamous relationship -- except every once in awhile." Though their responses were quite varied, they consistently revolved around the notion of sex. Since genuine, intimate sexual contact with another person appears to be one of the most valued and sought-after phenomena of human existence, it makes sense that the sharing of that much-loved person with another would cause great pain and anguish.

Nonmonogamy doesn't always produce "anguish", though. It is more feasible in some situations than in others: like when your newfound lover is in another city. Or, if you live alone, you might be able to experience sexual relationships with more than one person at one time with a minimal amount of hassle and trauma. I think these situations are the exception, however, not the usual. Usually, you find a couple - two women who care about each other very much - honestly trying to struggle with the inherent confines of traditional monogamy and the progressive freedom of a more open relationship.

I do not make many blanket statements about nonmonogamy, but one I feel quite sure about is that whenever a monogamous couple chooses to experiment with nonmonogamy, they are taking the risk of breaking up their relationship; they are risking whatever trust they have established over time. And time, in a nonmonogamous situation, is of the essence. The spending of time becomes a more and more precious commodity as the "new" relationship progresses. At first, the original, primary relationship has months or years of bonding to fall back on. Time is not an obstacle. In fact, the lover who is "left out" may be quite generous in allowing you time with your new-found lover. But, as your attraction grows and you spend more time on the new relationship, she will begin to want, and need, more of your time to reassure her of your intentions toward her. After all, if you are spending so little time at home, maybe you are making your home somewhere else.

So, you spend more time at home. Then, your "new" lover realizes (suddenly) that you really are willing to make sacrifices for your primary relationship, and soon the reality, the confines, of nonmonogamy begin to appear. The stage is set.

In what is usually a relatively short period of time, all sorts of bizarre feelings and activity may be experienced by the three individuals (three people, not two, are involved and affected by nonmonogamy). Both lovers will begin to need increasingly more time with the lover who finds herself in the middle, and she will be pulled with growing urgency into two directions. Then, it is only a matter of time until the "middle" lover must make a choice and reestablish some semblance of sanity and order into her life. Decisions, decisions. Three resolves into two.

(continued on next page)



Nonmonogamy is an ideal; nonmonogamy is a theory. It is not the practical, nor is it the easy or painless way to operate. Make your decision with your eyes open, weighing the risks that are present for you and for both relationships against the opportunity for your own personal growth and experience. It may be one of the most important decisions you ever make.

\*\*\*

Ah - but those heady times - at the beginning, when the experience is fresh and new - when everyone is loving and giving and sure - sure of their capacity to hold on through the rough times and of their ability to continuously love, selflessly. What a feeling of strength and fullness and hope. Unprepared for the wrenching of love taken away.

-- Holly D.

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The FORUM continues on the next page.....please read on.....

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#### LAB BOARD POSITIONS

For the months of May, June, July, the LAB Board positions will be filled by the following members:

Facilitator -- Sue  
 Evaluator -- Lois  
 Recorder -- Rachael  
 Treasurer -- Joan  
 Membership Coordinator -- Dee  
 DINAH Liaison -- Wendy  
 CARE Liaison -- Marie Dennis  
 WHW Liaison -- Rachael

\*\*\*\*\*

The Greater Cincinnati Gay Coalition (GCGC) sponsors a newsletter for the Cincinnati Lesbian/Gay community called "The Yellow Page." It is published monthly with the intent of providing information about local events and services, hoping to "spread the word" among our large minority, and helping to break down the sense of isolation many gay people feel. Any articles or "Calendar" events should be sent to GCGC, PO Box 19158, Cincinnati, OH 45219, by the 15th of every month.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### MARCH ON ZIMMER

There will be a march and rally at the Zimmer nuclear power plant on June 3rd. The demonstration is part of a 2-day event planned by Southern Ohio anti-nuclear groups in conjunction with the International Days of Protest Against Nuclear Power. The International Days emerged from a conference held in Europe last year. The June 3rd march is being jointly sponsored by six groups, including Citizens Against A Radioactive Environment (CARE), here in Cincinnati. CARE will be circulating flyers in every section of the city. For more information on June 3rd, and to learn how you can help, call 281-7657 or 961-4484. Thanks.



## An Old-Fashioned Solution

This letter was written over two years ago to one of a couple who lived on a farm in Indiana. It was never intended to be sent but written for purposes of self-therapy and self-discipline. The couple has since moved away, so I have decided to share the letter with Dinah as part of the series on relationships.

Dear ---,

I address this letter to you but shall never send it because I cannot, will not, let you know, or even suspect, its contents. The reason I can't, won't, do so, is because you are already in a steady relationship, and I respect relationships too much to zoom in on you, and tell you how deeply I long for you--mentally, emotionally, physically. I do not usually think in terms of relationships, since I burn (not necessarily "out") far too quickly; but once in a while a woman like you comes into my life, who reawakens all my hidden (o so well) longings for a lasting relationship.

Relationships take a lot of working at, a lot of caring, nurturance, even sacrifice. I personally believe that the best relationships are monogamous ones. They not only show that one is sexually content with one's partner (yes, even after years of living together, and perhaps with some mutual experimentation), but that one is ethical enough not to, to put it simply, cheat on one's lover. I do not deny the existence of sexual attraction for other women--are we not all uniquely beautiful women? But I believe, intellectually if not always in fact, in living by an old-fashioned system of morals that requires fidelity in a commitment. Not simply because "old-fashioned" is sanctioned by custom and must therefore be "right" but because it is the ethical system that makes me happiest with myself, when I act on it.

You are in a closed relationship and do not go to bars or women's events. Just as well. A lot of the women who frequent bars and women's functions are not only doing so because they enjoy being with other women socially, but also because they are "in circulation." Many of these women are single or in non-monogamous relationships. Closed couples who participate in such events are always in potential danger of a breakup. The sad part of such breakups is that the "other woman" is sometimes not a stranger or even a distant acquaintance but a close, trusted friend ("Sure you can go out with her. I love you both too much and know you love and respect me also, for us to ever hurt one another"). And soon it's your turn on the sidelines, watching them eagerly enjoy each other.

Some women say we have only one life to live--how boring/frightening/unexperimental to expend one's sexual and primary energies on only one person. I too share their feelings sometimes, though not their philosophy of life. But some say, notions of fidelity are outdated, that we have every right to act on our sexual attractions, even with women already in couples. O.K., I say to such people, if that is truly your ethical code, I do not deny your right to act on it. "This, above all, to thine own self be true."

But I shall not even wait on the sidelines for you in the secret hope that we may get together in future years, if you ever break up with her. I am too afraid to even be your friend and hers, too afraid my entire ethical system may topple over at the slightest



affectionate response from you. Instead, I shall reaffirm my faith in Karmic relationships, and hope to meet you free in my next life, so we can live, love, and grow together, Goddess willing.

Good-bye.

In peace,

EMMA

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### DINAH'S DYKES DO IT AGAIN!

Two in a row! Yes sportswomin, this is your ole "dyke-jock" coming to you from the ballfields of your heart.

The first game of the season left us spoiled with an easy win, 13-3. Needless to say great jubilation took place immediately afterwards at a nearby pub, where the scoring continued, completely leaving the local inhabitants at a loss (!)

Moonbeams and highly energized womonpower united brought us to our second victory. During the early part of the game, things were dark indeed--trailing 10-2. Then out from behind the clouds Her beauty glowed, almost complete in Her fullness, the Moon Goddess echoed forth. And then like Amazons out of the shadows we charged ahead in one of the most exciting displays of womin uniting (not only on the field, but in the supporting stands too) to rally ahead in a 13-12 win over our adversaries.

A big congratulations to the team, coaches, and fans of the DINAH softball team--they represent what our community is all about.

Come and be part of us at our next game, Wednesday, May 23, at Eden Park #2, at 6:20 p.m. Until then, keep on swinging--it's early in the season.

Love from "D.J." in the Park

### DINAH'S SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

Our team plays every Wednesday, so bring your purple pom-poms and come cheer us to victory!

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Time</u> |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 5-23        | Eden Park #2    | 6:20 p.m.   |
| 5-30        | Eden Park #2    | 6:20 p.m.   |
| 6-6         | St. Clair       | 7:30 p.m.   |
| 6-13        | St. Clair       | 7:30 p.m.   |
| 6-20        | Eden Park #2    | 6:20 p.m.   |
| 6-27        | St. Clair       | 6:20 p.m.   |

Field Locations: St. Clair--Fairmount & Iroquois  
Eden Park #2--Martin St., Eden Park



## A Brief Impression of Kate Millett

Kate Millett was at the University of Cincinnati on Friday, April 13th. She talked for an hour and a quarter on the Iranian women's revolution -- to my disappointment, I must admit, since I had hoped to hear something about American feminism and Kate's own works. One important point that she made, however, was that she had not intruded herself on their feminist movement but had been invited by their leaders to participate, contrary to what the news media would have us believe. It was good to hear that she had recommended (in vain, of course) that the rights of lesbians and of prostitutes be included in the new constitution. It was even better to hear her stand up there and declare to the audience, "I am a lesbian."

The informal gathering at Dee's later was more fun. Kate proved an interesting person to talk to, and especially to listen to, so much so that I clean forgot to ask her about her opinions on the American movement. I did learn, though, that she was interested in women's spirituality.

We briefly discussed her works. I told her that after the immense intellectual satisfaction one felt with Sexual Politics, Sita, her autobiographical lesbian novel, was frustrating in its masochism. I was chastened to hear that Sita had committed suicide last year. Kate is presently working on an Elegy to Sita that will be published sometime this year.

It was good to have Kate Millett in Cincinnati but there's really not much more to say about it. I think that's a compliment to her. After reading Sita, I felt I knew her so well, it was like talking to an old friend over a drink and cigarettes. Real comfortable. Kate may be at the top but she definitely felt like one of us. That is a compliment, isn't it?!

-- Emma

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## LESBIAN/GAY PRIDE DAY

Lesbian/Gay Pride Day will be celebrated in Cincinnati on Saturday, June 30, with a rally on Fountain Square from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. There will be entertainment, speakers, awards, and booths. Local speakers will include Wendy Winkler, Howard Gaas, and Bob Peppard. Some out-of-town speakers are still being arranged.

Organizations wishing to have a booth on the square should contact one of the coordinators. The planning committee can still use help working on publicity, making posters, setting up and cleaning up, and security. Anyone with energy and time (or even money) to contribute toward the cause should call: Scotty (271-0181), Bob (321-5261), or Janet (475-3967).

The rally is being sponsored by the Greater Cinti Gay Coalition, with the cooperation of the Lesbian Activist Bureau. LAB has decided, however, to have separate social activities only after the rally. LAB is in the process of planning a hayride Saturday night and a Whitewater canoe trip Sunday, July 1. More information on these events will be available soon at the coffees. GCLC is planning a Film Festival on the UC campus for Saturday from 4-8 p.m. Films include "Word is Out," "The Leonard Matlovitch Story," and "A Question of Love." A picnic in Burnet Woods is planned for Sunday at 11:00 a.m.



In "Some One You Know & Trust" I wrote that two of God's examples of love for me are drugs and cookies. I was speaking specifically of homemade, chocolate chip cookies but I didn't to suggest that they hang around with drugs. I like cookies and my personal preference happens to be the homemade chocolate chip cookie but, about cookies in general, I have made the following observations.

- 1) Cookies are handy - "Oh, yea, pick up some cookies while you're out."
- 2) Cookies nestled together make an attractive crowd.
- 3) Therefore, everybody can have a lot of cookies unlike A piece of pie or A piece of cake.
- 4) You don't have to select a wine to go with cookies. Milk remains the perfect compliment.

By singling out the homemade chocolate chip cookie I don't mean to imply it is the better cookie. I have enjoyed Oreos in times of crisis. (Crisis defined as no chocolate chip cookies available.)

Rather than belabor the point that store bought cookies will do BUT homemade chocolate chip cookies are warm and special, rather than an ambivalent tirade that refined sugar is poison and not to mention that I am one of those people who believe white flour will kill me - I submit the following frequently tested, constantly approved recipe to demonstrate my commitment to creating the better cookie.

#### Marlena's Chips DeVille

Cream together:  $\frac{1}{2}$  C. soft butter &  $1\frac{1}{2}$  C. brown sugar, add 3 eggs & 1 tsp. soda, 1 tsp. vanilla & 1 large & sloppy Tablespoon of water. To this, slowly add  $2\frac{1}{4}$  C. whole wheat flour &  $\frac{1}{4}$  C. white flour. Stir in at least 12 Oz. of chocolate chips - 14 - 16 Oz. chips is better. Bake on a greased cookie sheet 8 - 10 min. at 350. Makes about 70 cookies,  $\frac{5}{6}$  chips per cookie..



# ALIVE!

I know how they got their name! This wimmin's group is so filled with energy it's contagious! The energy spreads like ripples throughout the audience, finally emerging into a communal wave.

Alive! is a group of five wimmin who play piano, congas, cello, drums, cowbells, sticks, and just about anything else they can get their hands on that will make a sound. Each woman in the band is talented and got an opportunity to communicate with the audience on her particular instrument. It was the meshing of those individual energies into a web, however, that made Alive! so special.

One of the high points of the concert for me was the song about an old Celtic witch named Rhiannon. The lead singer, Rhiannon, told us the story of this woman who was known for her connection with birds. It was said that she sang so well even the birds would stop to listen. The song took on an ethereal mood as Rhiannon actually SANG INTO THE PIANO! The resulting echoes haunted and hinted at times long past. Very effective. Very inspiring.

Rhiannon is one of the most dynamic and exciting singers I have ever heard. (I think she might even have Laura Nyro beat -- and I've been a Laura Nyro fan faithfully!). Rhiannon does things with her voice (tones, depths, howls) that make me forget I am hearing a human voice. The sounds that come from deep within that woman are amazing to me!

And she sings of things we can all relate to. Like living in the city, getting the blues, needing healing from our sisters, relationships. Ah, relationships... Many in the audience were with her all the way when she described the ups and downs of being lovers -- from wanting to go off in the wilderness by yourself when it's bad to wanting to yell and scream to wanting to compulsively eat everything in the refrigerator. But "Wild Women Don't Get the Blues," she reminded us. And judging by the shrieks and hoots in response, we will all carry on.

During intermission and following the concert, I asked several wimmin their reactions. Following is a sampling:

"Oh, they really love each other! I've never seen a group that connected so much, spiritually, emotionally, and in every way."

-- Blair, a member of Mentoress

"Exquisitely sensitive! Their percussion is particularly exciting."

-- Kathy Nolan, of Mentoress

"Oh, it's better than that, Kathy!"

-- Maggie

"The parts with the cowbells and congas drove me crazy. It was a little too much."

-- Lois McG.



## ALIVE! (continued)

"I'm really proud of how far women's music has come in Cincinnati! My personal involvement with the beginnings of both Women's Music Project and Mentoreess make me feel like it's family.

I was talking with Rhiannon after the concert. Several Women's Music Festivals ago (in Champaign-Urbana) Therese Edell, Annie Dinerman, Donna, a few others, and I met Rhiannon when she was performing as an individual and was known as Susan. We were the first people she met there. I'd like to share what she just told me -- that coming to Cincinnati is like "coming to the heart of women's music."

-- Gini

"I'm a harsh critic of music, and I couldn't find anything wrong with their performance."

-- Talya

"I rate them a 96! Their music is easy to get into, but a little hard to dance to..." (parody of Dick Clark's American Bandstand)

-- Margie, from Dayton, Ohio

"I don't know what to say...no words come out...I like this hug the best! (to the roving reporter)"

-- Janet L.

Who says interviewing can't be fun?! Quotably yours,

phebe

\*\*\*

ALIVE! would very much like to do an album but they need you-know-what. If you would like to donate money or know someone who could, contact the group by writing:

ROADWORK  
c/o Konda Mason  
1315 Kennedy, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20011

MENTORESS is still in search of a better name (one without the "men.") They encourage suggestions. While you're at it, why don't you tell them how much you appreciate all the work they've been doing for the community. Write them at:

MENTORESS  
P.O. Box 19361  
Cincinnati, OH 45219



## POSITIVE CHILD CARE

We have a common heritage that extends beyond all cultural, religious, racial, or sexual boundaries. We have all been children. Sharing in that universal experience should provide us with a frame of reference for the importance of quality child care at feminist/lesbian events.

Since child care has become an integral part of planning for these activities (from meetings to concerts), it should be evident that children are indeed a part of our community.

Our concern for quality care of children should reflect the concern we have for our future, which they represent.

The recent Southern Ohio Women's Conference provided an example of the high quality care of children that can be attained.

A standard can be set to insure that the children of those attending such events will be cared for by individuals who are genuinely interested in young people. They should be responsible, healthy adults who can serve as role models and direct the youngsters in creative play. This will offer to the children in attendance a rewarding experience to carry home, paralleling the positive activity in which the adults have engaged.

Further, as humanists, we must guarantee the rights of male children to proper, positive care, that will reinforce the nonsexist attitudes we want all children to enjoy as they grow to adulthood.

High quality care of children at important political and/or social events for women must become a concern and a responsibility that the entire lesbian/feminist community will share.

This is an important dimension of feminism in which we all have an investment. Insist on the quality care of all children. The dividends are our future.

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The above article was composed at the last meeting of the Greater Cincinnati Lesbian Mothers Support Group. For more information regarding future meetings, please contact Dee at 961-5934 or Gini at 542-2968. (The last meeting was attended by seventeen women. New members are welcome. We encourage anyone interested in being supportive of lesbian mothers to attend.)

### \*\*\* NEWS FLASH \*\*\*

We just got news that a lesbian mother won a custody case in Louisville, Kentucky! Luanne Stevenson, the mother, won custody of her three-year-old girl, Shannon, after three weeks of deliberation by the jury. The trial took place in the Jefferson County courts and has lasted for two years.

Anyone wanting to contact the Lesbian Mother Support Group in Louisville to send donations or letters of congratulations, write:

Falcon River  
1529 Southgate Ave.  
Louisville, KY 40215



## WHAT I HEARD

I heard a woman say she didn't believe in pampering the poor and so our taxes shouldn't pay for their abortions. Heard her say if you are pro-choice you are pro-abortion, since you're supporting a woman's right to make an immoral decision. Heard her say if women have the right to choose an abortion, then people should have the right to choose to murder. Great goddess, I even heard her say abortion rights would lead to euthanasia!

Woman, how can you speak of pampering when your business depends on monies from your mamma, which come from her inheritance which was made by your ancestors off the backs of those poor? All monies any of us are given or earn come from the same place; that's what capitalism is all about. Our taxes support so many men and their mistakes; war and all its trappings, atomic fuel, CIA murders, continuing research and development of bigger and better ways to blow us all up, etc., etc., ad nauseum. Yet if the mistake is an unwanted pregnancy, a mistake peculiar to women, then you advocate we turn our backs.

And so you speak of legislating morality. Maybe as a Lesbian you don't think you'll ever need an abortion so you can sit snugly while advocating that morality be legislated in this particular case. Take care my sister! Lesbianism is not only considered immoral, but it is an insult to all mankind. Believe this, if we don't fight against legislating morality, you will soon be a criminal (already are in some states).

Murder is not, has never been, legislated against on a moral basis. It is legislated against as a means of protection. It is either that or wear six shooters on our hips. Our culture is still at the point that, for many, only fear of retaliation provides us with even a modicum of safety. If murder was truly thought to be immoral, then we would never wage war and we would not have capital punishment.

Saying abortion rights would lead to euthanasia tends to make me think you should certainly contact Kenneth Blackwell (Cincinnati City Councilman) about a possible political alliance. Blackwell thinks sanctioning homosexuality would lead to the elimination of the human species. Surely you can both appreciate the logic of this suggested alliance.

What I heard you saying is: you've got yours and the rest ...? This is the maxim on which all male cultures have existed. It has been pounded into our minds and stamped even on our souls, but we are not made of paper and though their marks are deep, they are not indelible! It will take lots of courage and persistence but we can throw off this selfishness and these blind morals which make us so sure our way is the only way.

We must question all the man says, and because we've been socialized by him, we must question ourselves. I love you sister, but I cannot tolerate the man's thinking; and when I fall into it, you will be doing me a disservice not to call my attention to it. Together we can create a new culture. Only together can we do it.

Janet Fay



For each therapist you have seen within the last three years who still practices within the greater Cincinnati area, please provide the following information:

1. Her/his name: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Extent to which your homosexuality was an issue in your therapy: 

|                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| It was not<br>an issue | It was<br>the main issue |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
3. Her/his supportiveness of your homosexuality: 

|                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Extremely<br>Unsupportive | Extremely<br>Supportive |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
4. The way in which her/his supportiveness or lack of supportiveness was shown:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. You are a: Female \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_

If you have seen more than one therapist within the last three years who still practices in the greater Cincinnati area, please use extra pages. Finally, please send your response to the above questions to:

Therapist Rating Scale  
Dinah  
P.O. Box 1845  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45201

Thank you for your help!



All True Lovers by Sarah Aldridge, 1978.

Naiad Press, Inc., 7800 Westside Drive, Weatherby Lake, MO 64152  
\$6.75/paper, 288 pages.

Isabel Essory and Andrea Hollingsworth have problems. Isabel is deserted by her family and is hard-pressed to work her way through school during the Depression years. She is pressured to excel and become a model of piety by her Catholic aunt and the nuns who are her teachers. The best-paying job available to Isabel also holds the highest risk: waitressing at a road house where men assume the women working are selling sex as well as steins of beer.

Andrea's pressures are just the reverse. She is overprotected by her mother, and though her father is able to pay for her good education, it is only at a cost of guilt that further binds Andrea up with the family's dominance. Her mother view her as a too-culpable innocent, easily swayed.

In All True Lovers, Andrea and Isabel find themselves smothered by outside pressures that allow no room for their own thoughts, ideas, or development. Though the era of the Depression in Washington, D.C., sets the time of this new novel by Sarah Aldridge, her characters are engulfed in a story that has no real boundaries of time. The condition of woman - fighting for her own space within a maelstrom of judgment - is a plot readers will recognize immediately and relate to their own lives.

The wonder of lesbian fiction, and indeed of life, is that characters like Bel and Andy manage to find each other, commit to their love and the strength it supplies, and survive the myriad conflicts which threaten to swallow them up. These two have stiff conflicts to overcome: battling almost insurmountable economic difficulties and the fearful opposition of their relationship by Andy's mother. Over the 288 pages of the novel, we witness them growing in perspective and independence. They experiment with conventional and unconventional ways of living to finally conquer all odds.

The book is inspiring in terms of its story about two valiant women finding themselves and each other in a historic period even more difficult than today. However, there are two drawbacks to this novel. The first is that it is inordinately long in the first third of the book where Bel and Andy make friends and grow to love each other. Less exposition and more action is called for. Secondly, the character portrayal of the mother is shallow, especially for one who plays such a major role in the plot. Even strident, proud, overly-socialized women have more than one dimension and soften occasionally. Mrs. Hollingsworth does not. At least we are not let in on the moments when she does. Her dismissal of Andy in their climactic confrontation is too abrupt. She appears flat on the page, not raised and textured like the other women in the book.

Sarah Aldridge has proven that the period piece is her forte. She can draw us back to a world before that shows us something new about our own world. Women then knew the necessity and risk of change, as women do now.

All True Lovers is the suspenseful story of how two such women began to break barriers.

- Vicki P. McConnell

Vicki P. McConnell is involved in the women's political community in Denver, has written for the N.O.W. newsletter, and is a member of the Feminist Writer's Guild.



## RESEARCH PROJECT ON LESBIAN-FEMINIST AND FEMINIST LANGUAGE

I am currently collecting materials for an article on changes which have been generated in the English language by lesbian-feminists and feminists. These are changes such as the many new spellings for the word woman; such as, womon, womyn, wimmin, to name a few, as well as many of the new terms that have been coined to name the institutions and customs which have arisen as our community expands and grows stronger. An example of this is the word LAB--a shortened form of the word labrys, the double-headed Amazon axe--as well as an acronym for the Cincinnati-based Lesbian Activist Bureau. Other examples are found in the wide range of names which have recently been coined to name feminist bookstores: A Place of One's Own, A Room of One's Own, A Woman's Place, Giovanni's Room (not a feminist name, but it carries an acceptable selection of lesbian-feminist literature), and The Crazy Ladies Bookstore. The latter, along with the new implications of the word dyke, are examples of "upgrading"--a process in which the word's meaning is literally changed by the community from negative to positive.

Changes in language are evidence that, as we change our political environment, we are internalizing a new view of the world--one which we as lesbians and feminists have had a hand in shaping. The way we view reality and the way we choose to name it go hand-in-hand; our perception of reality is undergoing a considerable upheaval in lesbian-feminist and feminist communities around the United States, so it can be expected that the language will change to fit our changing view of ourselves. We no longer see ourselves as extensions of men. A case in point is the word woman, man + a prefix, so we have changed the spelling of this word. We are also claiming more and more space for ourselves in society, becoming more and more visible and asserting our right to be here and to meet our needs. It is therefore not surprising that such names as A Woman's Place illustrate our new assertion of re-claimed territory, space for ourselves. The word LAB also does this; it draws its effectiveness both from our Amazon heritage as well as from the present day activist organization in Cincinnati.

Please help me with further sources of documentation and examples of new words, names, sayings, terms, and new spellings that you have heard or read in lesbian-feminist and/or feminist circles and publications. I am looking for flyers, announcements, movement newspapers, posters and position papers, or anything else which may come to your attention. I am looking for material which goes as far back as 1966. A few new leads will also give me ideas about where to look for more material. If you can help me, please fill out the blank below and either send me your material through Dinah or send me your name, address, and phone number so that I can get in touch with you. Send it to: Lesbian-Feminist Language Change, C/o Dinah, P.O. Box 1485, Cincinnati, OH 45201

Thank you! In Sisterhood, Ellie

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_  
(plus area code)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

If not enclosed, type of documentation you would like me to contact you about: \_\_\_\_\_



HOLLY NEAR/J.T.THOMAS INTERVIEW

Doing an interview can be a frustrating experience. Trying to capture the spirit of two wonderfully inspiring women through the medium of words alone ... well, by now many of us have heard them in concert and know what I mean.

Holly Near the person/Holly Near the performer: It's hard for me to separate the two. Her politics is so much her life. Even before hearing her in concert, I was impressed! Holly is an interviewer's dream. All you have to do is try to keep up with her. She's a sincere and enthusiastic speaker. And J.T. Thomas -- I loved her down-to-earth honesty.

Late afternoon the day of the concert, a group of us met with Holly and J.T. At the interview were two women from Every Woman's View (Blair and Pat), two women from WAIF radio (Kate and Colleen), and me representing Dinah.

-- phebe

DINAH: Can a feminist singer survive like this? Economically, as well as psychologically?

HOLLY: One of the things that has made people great is initiative -- combined with passion and talent. To survive economically, women musicians will have to be good. To be good, you have to work -- it's a continuous cycle.

Traditional goals have been fame, money, competition. As a friend of mine says, "We're trying to live post-revolutionary attitudes in a pre-revolutionary time."

EVERY  
WOMAN'S  
VIEW Did any single event trigger your feminism?

HOLLY: Hmmm. No, I would have to say it was a series of little events. In 1970, I was one of those women who thought they didn't need "Women's Lib." I was a professional, I had a career, I didn't need men -- I was already "liberated." But New York in the early '70's: a lot was happening. And I gradually realized my feminism.

DINAH: Are you going to be at either Champaign-Urbana or the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival? Tell us about your tour.

HOLLY: We won't be in Michigan. But we will be at Champaign-Urbana. I'll be doing three workshops. Wednesday morning, I'll do a workshop for Beginner's Performance; Thursday, a similar one at the Intermediate Level; and Friday, Voice (group singing). See, a lot of women into music have never had the chance to learn these kinds of skills.

This is our last week of a tour of 56 concerts. We've done women's concerts, some concerts for lesbian mother defense funds, and a lot in conjunction with anti-nuke groups. I



think the women's movement, lesbian-feminists, and the anti-nuclear movement have become more aware of the connections between them. Anti-nuke could be one of the most unifying issues for groups from many perspectives. The anti-nuke movement is concerned with the quality of life. That can't exist with oppression against women and people of color. And feminists have to realize that our dreams won't matter if there's no world!

EWV: Will you zoom in and talk a little about feminist politics?

HOLLY: When I came out as a lesbian, a lot of people in the Left were disappointed in me -- they were afraid that they'd "lost" me. That was their homophobia.

I'll talk about my concept of feminism through my music:

1. I want to introduce to people what I wish would have been introduced to me earlier ... It's easier sometimes to hear women's music than to be won over by a speech (though there have been a few). I think personal stuff is real important!

We need to re-evaluate how we treat each other as women. Why are there so many white, middle-class women -- not to guilt-trip, but to learn. Where are the women of color? One of the things that impressed me when I came out was that there was every kind of woman in the bars.

We should not presume we are all the same. Look at some of our differences: alcoholism, physical handicaps. We should learn not to be so presumptuous. Like white women saying to women of color: teach me not to be racist

2. Sometimes I like to do concerts just for women. As lesbians, we deserve it, as part of our culture which includes feminism. My concerts are predominantly lesbian. Some straight women say, "Why don't you speak to straight women?" Well, I already gave them three albums full! Why aren't they looking to straight feminists? No one artist or performer should be expected to fulfill all needs.

People are starting to look to lesbian energy. Lesbians are out there doing it -- all the time! We are involved in every movement. And then, someone comes along and says, "Why aren't you taking care of me?" I try to be clear about who I'm speaking to in my concerts and for what purpose.

WAIF: So who would you say you write with in mind? Do you write for women?

HOLLY: I will usually see something and that will trigger a song. Or think something new. When I write my music, I gear it toward myself. My performances are geared toward a



particular end. I try to make my concerts entertaining events, pouring out parts of my life. They can't be all things to all people. The audience has so much to do with it!

DINAH: Have you had any kind of voice training? Will you talk about your music some?

HOLLY: Yes, both of us have. I performed nightclubs before I did political stuff against the war. J.T. had voice lessons for eleven years! She started when she was four.

J.T.: I quit piano and took composition when my music teacher left. I wrote music on my own and started playing piano for jobs.

HOLLY: J.T. comes from a background of Broadway and classical. She writes ragtime and has also written shows for children's theaters.

The music I'm doing now is mostly co-written with Meg (Christian) and Jeff (Langley). It's a combination of folk, Broadway, jazz, and blues. Some guy with the overground press (I forget which) gave me a bad review recently. He couldn't take it that we combine politics with Broadway -- it's like it was too "clean" or something. He couldn't handle it.

WAIF: Will you speak to the issue of entertainment as a political force? Do you think entertainers have changed, that their influence has gotten stronger over the years?

HOLLY: I think there's always been something called "people's music." A few examples are Pete Seeger, Woody Guthrie, Elizabeth Cotton, even people in theater like Weill/Brecht.

I think artists need to be aware of their responsibility. Are they going to be a positive influence or not? Like, when I listen to the radio, I'll tap my feet and can like the beat of a song -- but I am aware that I won't let it in on some level.

Is music going to be used to improve people's lives or to manipulate? Take marches with brass bands for an example. I can see how that music was used to stir people up to get men off to war. Or old World War II movies. Have you ever seen them? They have this eerie music whenever a Japanese person comes on the screen -- that influence was used to perpetuate racism. And lullabies. You know how they're used to get kids to sleep.

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HOLLY: I met J.T. quite by chance. It was in 1975 when we met. She came up to Jeff and I and said, "If he ever gets sick, give me a call." I wrote her number down and didn't think anything more about it at the time. J.T., tell them about yourself! J.T.'s story is really interesting because she's coming from a place of non-political to political.



J.T.: I was doing children's theater. I didn't know beans about what was political. I'm still learning. My politics went as far as thinking "Sesame Street" was good (I still like "Sesame Street"! ). I liked the way Holly sang. Something was inspiring but I didn't know what.

Later, I flew up from New York to work for Holly. I did a few concerts before going full time. I was so nervous!

Before working on the album (IMAGINE MY SURPRISE), I went to a Chris Williamson concert. There were about a million women there! I had on make-up! I thought, "I don't like these people -- they're weird!" Meg had just shaved her head then. She came up and introduced herself to me. I thought, "Oh, no!" I told Holly, "I have to go home tomorrow."

Then I decided I'd go ahead and do the album, but after that I was leaving. During the course of working on the album, I started changing. People were delightful! They had such integrity, they really cared (to the point of tears sometimes). I went on tour and started liking everyone -- I realized you are really nice!

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You can order Holly Near's albums by writing to:

Redwood Records  
P.O. Box 40400  
San Francisco, CA 94140

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Frontiers, A Journal of Women Studies, is soliciting articles for its forthcoming issue on lesbian history. They would be happy to consider articles for publication in their Fall 1979 issue. Deadline for submission of articles is July 31, 1979.

The aim of Frontiers is to publish a journal which bridges the gap between university and community women. They publish both traditional and innovative work. Suggestions for possible topics include the following: biographies of lesbians and lesbian groups, communities, and organizations; pursuing lesbian history research and writing; descriptions of and information on lesbian oral history projects; grant support you may have received and/or a discussion of how and why you were turned down; reviews of lesbian biographies and books on lesbian history; and discussion of ways we can share/exchange resources and skills. Photographs and graphics are encouraged, as well as individual and collaborative articles.

Contact Frontiers by writing: Frontiers, Women Studies Program, University of Colorado, Hillside Court 104, Boulder, CO 80309.

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Don't forget! July 5 is the deadline for July issue of DINAH. Write PO Box 1435, Cinti OH 45201.



This might be about sports. I'm not sure because I don't really know very much about sports. I play pinball. I spent a year being remarkably good at Foozball. I play racquetball with startling killer instinct, I like the racetrack and I ski. I've watched only one series game on a TV in a bar, the local gaybar. That same night, I won the only bet I've ever made on a baseball game.

My other sports experiences of the past include softball in the 4th grade - where I asked the question "How do you make it go?" and where I played 3rd base, drifting anywhere from 10 to 20 feet out of position because I didn't want to get hit by either the ball or anyone who might be running around out there.

Several years ago I played a season of Sunday football in Burnett Woods and I loved it. Some friends gave me my own football and for a long time I walked around throwing it in the air, catching it, looking for a game. Last year, I played one Sunday of softball and hit just about everything I swung at even if I didn't always know when to run.

This year I thought about 'going out' for the Dinah team. I didn't because rules confuse me. I don't know what's supposed to happen or when and I'm still afraid of getting hit by the ball so, naturally, when I'm trying to catch, my eyes are closed. Lurching forward with uncertainty, glove waving around in the air, I hope to make contact with the ball and not be maimed by it.

It was this vivid image that assisted me in deciding not to 'go out' for the team. However. I went to a game last night and here's what I found out. Rubber cuffs on bat handles are not regulation; bat handles are taped. First base should have a strong defensive player. I also heard more sportstalk like 'good wood' and 'great eyes' but I didn't know what they were talking about so I didn't know where to look and can tell you nothing more about this.



To the DINAH Mailbag,

Many months ago, I went to a coffee/meeting of LAB. While I was there, I listened to womyn discussing how difficult it was to print DINAH; how womyn had to sneak around in basements in the middle of the night to print this newsletter. They talked about trying to raise money for a mimeo. Since I considered this newsletter to be an important means of communication for our community, and since I felt that these womyns' time and energies, so freely given, could be utilized in better ways, I donated \$500.00 for the mimeo.

I made that donation in August of 1978. It is now May of '79, and it is my understanding that the machine has been used exactly once to print one issue, that at that printing it was not working properly, and that it still doesn't. Obviously, the reason why I gave the money (so that DINAH would be assured of a reliable means of being printed with minimal hassle to the womyn involved), and what has, in fact, occurred during the past months are two entirely different things. It is also my understanding that the womyn involved with the mimeo have suffered excessive hassles and emotional pain because of all the problems with the machine.

It is, therefore, my opinion that too high a price has already been paid (and I'm not talking just about the money) to settle for a mimeo which does not work properly. I would like to see this situation corrected. Whether that means having this machine fixed, getting the company to give you a new machine, getting the company to give you back your money, or selling it yourselves and purchasing a new machine; I think this problem needs to be dealt with promptly for it has been allowed to drag on far too long already. Consequently, I am making an appeal to the Board of LAB to take on the responsibility for resolving this problem, since I feel that it is too complex and involves too many people for an individual to be able to effectively deal with it.

In sisterhood,

Anonymous Donor

Dear Women at DINAH,

It has taken us a year or more, here at Women's Network, to feel relaxed and settled, having gotten our publication comfortably together (in more ways than one), letting some of our exchanges know how much we appreciate and welcome their publications in exchange for ours. DINAH was one of the first to respond to our offer; thank you, DINAH, we will try never to forget our friends -- any support we can ever give is yours. Therefore, we would like DINAH to consider informing her readers that we will gladly send back-issues of WOMEN'S NETWORK free for the asking. We feel that some women who are writers and who use any form of female self-expression, will find the most interest in our newsletter.

Continued success to DINAH - to all of us - and, DINAH, you've got a good feeling about you - please keep it up.

Send requests to: WOMEN'S NETWORK  
2137 Quimby Av.  
Bronx, New York  
10473

In sisterhood,  
Dorothy Feola, Editor

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DINAH has received a lot of positive feedback in response to the March issue! We thank you - and would also like to remind our local readers, especially, that it's extra nice to see your comments in print. Why don't you write to us sometime?

DINAH      PO Box 1485      Cincinnati      Ohio      45201      THANK YOU!







THANKS

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